THE

HISTORY OF MEDICINE,

SO FAR AS IT RELATES TO THE

PROFESSION OF THE APOTHECARY,

From the earlieſt Accounts to the preſent Period:

THE EVILS

To which the Profeſſion and the Public have been of late Years equally expoſed;

AND

The Means which have been deviſed to remedy them.

Publiſhed at the Requeſt of the Committee

OF THE

General Pharmaceutic Aſſociation of Great Britain.

By JOHN MASON GOOD,

Fellow of the Medical Society of London, Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, and Author of the

"Diſſertation on the Diſeaſes of Priſons and Poor houſes."

THE SECOND EDITION.

To which are prefixed,

OBSERVATIONS ON A TRACT, ENTITLED

MUREPSOLOGIA;

And publiſhed in Anſwer to the former Edition.

Unum debet eſſe omnibus propoſitum, ut eadem ſit utilitas uniuſcujuſque et univerſorum; quam ſi ad ſe quiſque rapiat, diſſolvetur omnis humana conſortio. CICERO.

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DISSERTATION ON THE DISEASES

OF

PRISONS AND POOR-HOUSES;

TO WHICH WAS ADJUDGED

A PRIZE PREMIUM OF TWENTY GUINEAS,

BY THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ALSO

A REMARKABLE CASE

OF

PRÆTERNATURAL FŒTATION;

WITH

Obſervations on the Phœnomena that occurred.

TO

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq; M. P. &c.

SIR,

I DEDICATE the following compilation to you; and feel a peculiar pleasure and propriety in so doing: persuaded, as I am, that the reformation it endeavours to promote, would be highly advantageous both to the civil and political interests of this kingdom; and that it is as much needed, and as loudly demanded by the ARMY, the NAVY, and the NATION at large, as it is by the PHARMACEUTIC PROFESSION itself:—and equally persuaded that if, amongst the patriots of the present age, there be some few who are universally contemplated,

plated, more than all others, as poſſeſt of a real love for their country, and of keen penetration to develope its beſt intereſts—in the liſt of that ſelect, that venerated few, your name will ever appear inſcribed in deep and diſtinguiſhed characters.

I have the honour to be, with ſincere regard, and real gratitude for every paſt favour,

SIR,

Your much obliged
And very obedient
Humble Servant,

JOHN MASON GOOD.

Guildford Street, London,
October 12, 1795.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS publication is divided into four Chapters or Sections; and it is the aim of the AUTHOR, in each of them, to avoid as much as poſſible, the two extremes of tedious prolixity, and dry, unintereſting brevity; to be explicit without becoming diffuſe, and conciſe without offering a mere table of chronological events; to ſtate his facts and arguments fairly; and to engage the reader's attention by rendering the ſubject, at once, both intereſting and pleaſant.

That many errors are to be detected in it, though the pages be but few, he has no kind of doubt. It ſhould be remembered, however, as ſome apology, that it is written upon a ſubject which, he does not recollect, has ever been expreſsly attempted before.

before. Several hiſtories of medicine, and of phyſicians, have been publiſhed in moſt EUROPEAN countries, but none that has any particular reference to the PHARMACEUTIC branch of medicine, or that which regards the APOTHECARY. It has moreover, been compoſed, either, amidſt the perpetual avocations of buſineſs, or in hours purpoſely ſtolen from recreation and ſleep. And the only motive which induced him to engage in it, was the requeſt of ſome of his colleagues of the Committee of the GENERAL PHARMACEUTIC ASSOCIATION; and their not having engaged in it themſelves. Many of them, however, he is perſuaded, had they choſen to have encountered the taſk, would have rendered the cauſe, in which this volume is written, much more juſtice and benefit than it can poſſibly receive from his own feeble efforts.

CONTENTS.

CONTENTS.

SECT. I.

Page

Of the State of Medicine, ſo far as it relates to the Apothecary, among the Greeks, Romans, Arabians, the earlier Ages of France, Italy, and Germany. The immediate Occupation of the Apothecary, during theſe different Eras, and the Rank he obtained among the different Branches of the Medical Profeſſion. The Exiſtence of any ſuch Occupation as that of the modern Druggiſt inveſtigated and denied, and the Quarter pointed out from whence the Apothecary was ſupplied with the Drugs he ſtood in need of, 1

SECT. II.

The Origin of Medicine, and more eſpecially of the Profeſſion of the Apothecary, in Great Britain. The different Charters and Acts of Parliament which have ſucceſſively been obtained relative to Medicine; the Knavery and Ignorance of Multitudes of Medical Practitioners, from the univerſal Incompetency of thoſe public Edicts to prevent Abuſes. The Origin of the

the Occupation of the Druggiſt; and the Source from whence the Apothecary derived his Stock of Drugs anterior to this period, 89

SECT. III.

The Neceſſity of the Profeſſion of the Apothecary to the Nation at large, and the Evils to which both are, at preſent, equally expoſed. The Origin of the General Pharmaceutic Aſſociation to inveſtigate theſe Evils; its extenſive Correſpondence with Practitioners in all Parts of the Kingdom; and a brief Account of its ultimate Deſign, and of what it has already atchieved, 142

SECT. IV.

Obſervations on the Principles of Action laid down by the Pharmaceutic Aſſociation; and a Vindication of them, as conſiſtent with general Juſtice and Policy; as equally and indiviſibly connected with the Advantage of the Nation at large, and the very Exiſtence of the Profeſſion itſelf, as a Profeſſion of any poſſible Utility, 202

PREFACE.

I CANNOT permit this Edition of the HISTORY OF MEDICINE to be publiſhed, without noticing a ſmall pamphlet which has lately been advertiſed, in anſwer to the former edition of it, with the ſignature of "Joſeph Bradney, Eſq."

To write an anſwer to a book is eaſy, and lies within the compaſs of every man's abilities: but to write an anſwer to the purpoſe, to overthrow well ſupported facts, to refute concluſive reaſoning, and inductions, is not quite ſo eaſy a matter as Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. ſeems to imagine; and, in the preſent inſtance, ſhould be accompanied, even in the attempt, with a much more comprehenſive knowledge of the ſubject than he appears to poſſeſs.

This curious pamphlet is queerly enough entitled *Murepſologia, or the Art of the Apothecary:* and it is lucky for the reader that the author has thus tranſlated it into Engliſh.

For every one but himſelf would otherwiſe have imagined, what, indeed, the term Murepſologia, or rather Myrepſologia can only import, that it was *a Treatiſe on Perfumery* inſtead *.

But

* Had Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. been acquainted with the proper power of the Greek υ, he would no more have tranſlated it by the Roman letter *u*, than he would have employed this letter in the words myſtical and parylitic. As to the reſt, it is aſtoniſhing he ſhould have fallen into ſuch an error, with reſpect to the real meaning of the term with which he has thought proper to entitle and decorate his pamphlet. Μυρον, the theme from whence it is derived, ſignifies, in every inſtance, that kind of *liquid ointment* or *perfume*, which, like the odorous eſſences of the preſent day, conſtituted, amongſt the GREEKS and ROMANS, one of the luxuries of the fair and the beau monde; or was otherwiſe madeuſe of as a token of compliment and reſpect. Thus only can be conſtrued the phraſe λουομενοι τω μυρω, "bathed or ſprinkled with perfumes." Athen. lib. 5. Thus, likewiſe, the alabaſter veſſel of precious ointment or ſweet eſſence, which was *poured out* on the head of JESUS CHRIST, is denominated by both MATHEW and MARK, αλαβαστρον μυρου, Math. xxvi. 17. Mar. xiv. 3. Unleſs, indeed, Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. being himſelf a druggiſt, may imagine this ointment to have been melted cerate or baſilicon.

But the ROMAN writers are more deciſive on this ſubject

But it is not at all ſurprizing that Squire Joſeph ſhould have fallen into this miſtake; for there is ſcarcely a quotation he has made

ject ſtill. Thus CICERO, ſpeaking comparatively of the compoſitions of himſelf and POMPONIUS ATTICUS, ſays, Sed tua, tamen, erant *ornata* hoc ipſo quod *ornamenta* neglexerant; et ut mulieres, ideo bene *olere*, quia nihil *olebant*, videbantur; meus, autem, liber totum ISOCRATI μυροθήκιον, atque omnes ejus diſcipulorum arculas, ac non nihil etiam ARISTOTELIA *pigmenta* conſumpſit. Ad Attic. lib. 2. ep. 1. And PLAUTUS informs us as expreſsly, and with as much diſcrimination as he could, that the buſineſs exhibited in the ſhop of the apothecary which he denominates, both in his Epidicus and Menæchmus, medicina, (ἰατρεῖον) was a very different occupation from that carried on in the ſhop or warehouſe of the perfumer, which he pointedly diſtinguiſhes by the term "myropolium:" as different, indeed, as the buſineſs conducted in any of the other public repoſitories or places to which he alludes. The greater part of this paſſage I have already had occaſion to quote in the firſt edition of the HISTORY OF MEDICINE; and I will now add the whole of it for the complete ſatisfaction of Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. and his friends.

Utinam conveniam domi
Periphanem, per omnem urbem, quem ſum defeſſus quærere:
Per MEDICINAS, per tonſtrinas, in gymnaſio, atque in foro;
Per MYROPOLIA, et lanienas, circumque argentarias.
In Epidic.

from any one author whatſoever, and where the ſenſe is as clear as the day-light, but he has either completely miſtaken, or wilfully perverted. This is a very heavy charge—let then a few examples juſtify it. For the ſame reaſon that he has miſtaken the meaning of the Greek term μυρεψος, he has likewiſe miſtaken that of the Latin term *unguentarius*; which in the ſame manner he tranſlates *apothecary*; but which, contrary to his expectation, was uniformly uſed among the Roman writers to ſignify the buſineſs of a perfumer, or one who diſpoſed of ſweet-ſcented eſſences, paſtes, and pomatums, to the fine ladies and coxcombs of the age; and ſeldom or never to any part of any one branch of medical occupation whatever*. But on this ſubject Squire Bradney has made an appeal to CICERO: who, he tells us, has ſtiled the apothecary by this term; for that the apothecaries of ancient days were not medici, but

* Vide Hiſtory of Medicine, p. 38—39. where what is ſaid of ſeplaſius, &c. may occaſionally be applied to unguentarius.

unguentarii;

unguentarii; and has ranked his occupation *inter artes ſordidas*, whilſt *mercatura multa undique apportans, et medicina quâ prudentia ineſt et utilitas quæritur*, are claſſed by him, *inter artes honeſtas*.

Though no reference is here made to any part of the voluminous works of this eloquent writer, if the reader will pleaſe to turn to his treatiſe De Officiis, as below †, he will probably find the paſſage alluded to. The orator there divides the different occupations of mankind into two diſtinct claſſes—the liberal and the diſreputable; and, ranking in the latter claſs, thoſe which contribute to the luxuries and pleaſures of life, he, amongſt others, enumerates that of the *unguentarius*, or, according to Squire Joſeph, the *apothecary*; as if medicines, and taking phyſic, were amongſt the luxuries and pleaſures of human

† Lib. 1. cap. 42. Opificeſque omnes in ſordida arte verſantur: nec enim quidquam ingenuum poteſt habere officina: minimeque artes hæ probandæ, quæ miniſtra ſunt voluptatum, cetarii, lanii coqui, fartores, piſcatores, ut ait Terentius; adde huc, ſi placet, UNGUENTARIUS, ſaltatores, totumque ludum talarium.

life. As a druggiſt, however, and as a means of his obtaining theſe luxuries and pleaſures, he does well to believe ſo. And happy, indeed, would it be for the whole brotherhood of medicine, if he could perſuade the world at large to believe with him. No longer could there be a complaint, or a murmur, from the tongue of any medical man, even the moſt obſcure. I would chearfully forgive him his attack upon me; and would be the firſt perſon to propoſe an addreſs of thanks to him from the General Pharmaceutic Aſſociation of GREAT BRITAIN. Unluckily for us, however, this *learned* writer happens to be miſtaken in his conjecture: and that I may not be accuſed of ſingularity in conceiving ſo, as alſo for the better information of Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. himſelf, I have added, in a note below, the tranſlation of this paſſage, from an author who wrote it, for the uſe of the public, more than twenty years ſince*.

Squire

* "All handicraftſmen have but a mean ſort of calling; and it is impoſſible that a workſhop ſhould have any thing that is genteel in it. Further yet, all thoſe trades

Squire Joſeph is diſpleaſed with all "modern reformers and philoſophers," that they do not more freely conſult the writings of MOSES the HEBREW legiſlator: and is particularly angry with me for not having paid more attention to him in my "Hiſtory of Medicine." He pretends to much erudite knowledge of his bible, and great reverence for the ſacred writers. His treatment, however, of DAVID and St. LUKE are not altogether in conſonance with this reverence. I am no advocate for all the moral conduct of

trades are pitiful and low that purvey and cater for the ſatisfying men's pleaſures: fiſhmongers, butchers, cooks, &c. as Terence reckons them up: to which we may add, if you pleaſe, PERFUMERS, dancing-maſters, and thoſe who ſupply us with dice or cards." Cockman's Tranſl.

In the ſame preciſe ſenſe, and in a connexion ſtrikingly ſimilar Horace has more than once employed the ſame term: particularly in his Satires, lib. 2. ſat. 3. and if more be wanting, Martial and Terence will both produce abundant examples.

Hic ſimul accepit patrimonî mille talenta,
Edicit, piſcator uti, pomarius, auceps,
UNGUENTARIUS, ac Tuſci turba impia vici,
Cum ſcurris fartor, cum Velebro omne macellum
Manè domum veniant. Hor. ut ſupr.

the former; but I muſt juſtify him from all poſſibility of his having contracted, and, of courſe, communicated the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, which this *critic* inſinuates he did*, contrary, indeed, to the opinion of both divines and phyſicians; and which I do not believe Squire Joſeph himſelf would ever have thought of, had it not been merely to oppoſe an aſſertion of mine†, that the diſeaſes of mankind are more numerous now than they were formerly; and that neither the venereal diſeaſe, nor the rickets, nor the ſcurvy, nor many other diſeaſes, now too frequent, were known among the GREEKS and the ROMANS, or any of the earlier or contemporary nations. It is a pity he did not proceed farther, however, and inform us whether DAVID received this diſeaſe from BATHSHEBA, or BATHSHEBA from DAVID; or whether ſalivation was a frequent practice in his ſeraglio; which in this caſe muſt, in no ſmall degree, have reſembled a modern Magdalen ward or hoſpital. As I underſtand this writer's father was an apo-

* P. 11, 12. † Hiſt. of Med. p. 47.

thecary

thecary of reputable practice, I am rather aſtoniſhed he ſhould have been ſo totally uninformed on this ſubject; if indeed he be as uninformed as he pretends; and if he will not reſt ſatisfied with my aſſertion, I muſt leave him to contend theſe matters with Drs. FREIND, CULLEN, ASTRUC, and others, who have taken much pains to inveſtigate theſe diſeaſes from their firſt origin and appearance.

As to St. LUKE, he endeavours to maintain that both he, and almoſt all the phyſicians of GREECE and ROME were of mean deſcent, and "of no higher rank than ſervants." For it is not enough with Squire Bradney to degrade the brotherhood of apothecaries alone, but all connected with medicine, all at leaſt excepting druggiſts, muſt be degraded at the ſame time, and with the ſame bold daſh of the pen*. Leaving to phyſicians,

* This writer profeſſes great reverence for "the conſtituted legal authorities*" of the College of Phyſicians, and the Company of Apothecaries of this metropolis†.

* Murepſ. p. 14. † P. 5. 32.

ficians, however, to aſſert, if they think it worth while, the uniform dignity of their profeſſion in all ages, I will only remark reſpecting St. Luke, that, if he ever practiſed medicine at all, there is every reaſon to ſuppoſe that he practiſed it with much reputation and ability. That he was an accompliſhed ſcholar we know, for his Greek is pure and claſſical; far ſuperior to that of any of the other evangeliſts, and is only excelled, and that only at times, by Xeno-

Of the latter, I underſtand, he is a member himſelf; and it is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he ſhould, in no inſtance, deviate from his profeſſions here. But it is much to be wondered at, or I am much miſtaken, that with the reſpect he pretends for the former, he ſhould, nevertheleſs, ſtretch forth his rude tomahawk to maul, if it were in his power, the fair reputation of two of its brighteſt ornaments and moſt worthy members, Dr. Saunders and Dr. Relph: and all, forſooth, becauſe the former choſe, ſome years ago, to give a hiſtory of his fortunate and ſucceſsful experiments upon that ſpecies of the cinchona, denominated the *red bark*; and becauſe the latter choſe, a ſhort time after, to give a ſimilar hiſtory with reſpect to another ſpecies, named the *yellow*. Is it the modeſty or the conſiſtency of this writer that is moſt to be admired in this caſe?

PHON

PHON himſelf: and THEOPHILUS, the friend, or patron, to whom St. LUKE addreſſes his two hiſtories, was probably of noble birth or the patrician order, by the epithet (κρατιστος*) *moſt potent or noble*, with which he addreſſes him in his goſpel.

I have aſſerted that, in ſome of his references and quotations, Mr. Bradney appears to have wilfully perverted the ſenſe of the author referred to. In a paper reported, in the HISORY OF MEDICINE, to have been circulated from the General Pharmaceutic Committee, throughout the kingdom, and addreſſed to apothecaries at large, it is ſtated, among other propoſitions and heads for a future act of parliament, that a general pharmaceutic court ſhould be appointed "conſiſting of a certain number of members," duly empowered to make bye-laws, conducive to the welfare both of the public and the profeſſion†. In pretending to copy this propoſition from the HISTORY OF MEDICINE, in

* ἀ κρατος robur, imperium. Th. κρας caput.

† Hiſt. of Med. p. 201.

the

the true ſpirit of determined perverſion, after the words " a certain number of members," Squire Joſeph has purpoſely added " of the new aſſociation:" a reſtriction which was never deſigned, or even thought of, by any one but himſelf. And having thus intentionally violated the original meaning, he exclaims with much triumph reſpecting the aſſociation, that " this ſeems to ſpeak out, and unravel their whole deſign*."

In another place we are told that the application to Parliament, determined on by the Pharmaceutic Aſſociation, was *in conſequence* of our having been diſappointed in our applications to the College of Phyſicians, and the Company of Apothecaries†. In the firſt place, I know of no diſappointment whatſoever: and, as to the reſt, he muſt have been apprized, when he wrote this, that an application to the legiſlature was determined upon, not *after*, or *in conſequence of*, but *long before* any addreſs could poſſibly have been thought of to either of theſe medical bodies; and that ſuch ad-

* Murepſ. p. 27. † P. 24.

dreſſes

dreſſes were only founded upon ſuch prior determination*.

This application to Parliament, however, and the object of the aſſociation in obtaining a redreſs of abuſes, equally injurious to the public and the pharmaceutic profeſſion, are inexpreſſible offences in the judgment of Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. Not that ſuch abuſes do not exiſt. This is not pretended: they are too flagrant and notorious in every town and village throughout the kingdom, for a denial, or even a doubt. But in ſome pages of this *conſiſtent* pamphlet, we are told "that no human laws can ever reſtrain them‡;" and that "the wiſeſt laws, when framed, would be incompetent to ſuch an end§:" and in others,

* Hiſt. of Med. p. 166—169. The Squire has accuſed me of "delineating druggiſts as more contemptible in the public eye than farriers, carmen, porters, and woodmongers:" and adds that this delineation "is truly aſtoniſhing." P. 22. It is aſtoniſhing indeed! but there is ſomething more aſtoniſhing ſtill—and that is, than even he ſhould ſo completely have miſunderſtood me. To explain is needleſs: and I refer the reader to the following HISTORY OF MEDICINE, p. 113.

‡ Murepſ. p. 23. § Id. p. 33.

that

that "the powers which exiſt, for this purpoſe, are known, by reference to the ſtatutes, to be ample*; that they are full and comprehenſive†; and that they are lodged in the hands of a moſt reſpectable and ſkilful body of men‡." But if "theſe powers be ample—if they be full and comprehenſive,"—then "they *are competent* to the end for which they were framed:" and "*it is poſſible* for human laws to reſtrain the abuſes complained of§."

Let us then examine in whoſe hands "theſe ample and comprehenſive powers and authorities" are lodged. And here the author re-

* Murepſ. p. 13. † Id. p. 5. ‡ Id. p. 13.

§ Such inconſiſtencies as theſe are, by no means, uncommon, with Squire Bradney. In page 6, he ſpeaks of "the muſhroom race of modern druggiſts." In page 10, he endeavours to make the buſineſs of druggiſts and dealers in ſpices, one and the ſame: he ſtrives to prove their high antiquity, and makes them contemporary with JOSEPH and SHEBA and SOLOMON: and, in page 20, he finds no ſuch perſons as druggiſts exiſting ſo late as the reigns of HENRY VIII. and MARY; and gives an account of their origin after this period. Which account, indeed, but without any acknowledgment, is taken almoſt verbally from the HISTORY OF MEDICINE, p. 114, 115.

fers

fers us to the College of Phyſicians, and the Company of Apothecaries: and never was man more egregiouſly ignorant of a ſubject he pretended to underſtand, or more unlucky in the references adverted to in ſupport of ſuch a ſubject, than the preſent writer. We are at no debate reſpecting the magnitude, or the frequency, or the univerſality of the evils complained of. They are allowed by all parties; and, in the pamphlet under conſideration, they are, in many inſtances, accounted for*. The only queſtion at iſſue is, how the nation at large, the army, the navy, and the colonies dependent on this kingdom, and adverting to it for medical aſſiſtance, are to be adequately redreſſed by the preſent powers of which theſe medical incorporations are poſſeſt? How, with the poſſeſſion of theſe powers, they do or can decide on the qualifications of practitioners at large, and the purity of the drugs they employ?

As to the College of Phyſicians, they certainly have an authority, acceded to them by the legiſlature, of examining, *within a certain*

* Murepſ. p. 23, 24.

diſtance

diſtance from the metropolis, the wares and drugs of all perſons pretending to any branch of medical occupation; and of inflicting fines for adulteration and miſconduct. But to what diſtance does this authority extend?—To the colonies abroad?—No. To the army and navy?—No. To the different towns throughout the kingdom?—No: but to the city of LONDON alone, and the precincts of *ſeven miles* around it. And as to an examination of individual ability, which is deemed ſo requiſite in every other profeſſion, and is, at leaſt, of equal neceſſity in this—as far as relates to apothecaries—they have neither the power, nor the pretenſion, to interfere in any inſtance, or on any occaſion whatever. But "the powers that exiſt for correcting the abuſes complained of, we are told, are ample; they are full and comprehenſive." And, behold! this is one of thoſe ample and comprehenſive powers which the author refers to.

But, perhaps, it may be replied, if this amplitude and ſufficiency of power be not poſſeſt by the College of Phyſicians, it may be by the Company of Apothecaries: and it is to this

this, likewiſe, the pamphlet refers, as well as to the former.

Yet here again the author is moſt egregiouſly miſtaken: for the Company of Apothecaries is poſſeſt of no power or authority whatever; or, at leaſt, of none beyond the extent of their own members. And it is truly aſtoniſhing that Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. who, if I be rightly informed, is himſelf a member of this company, ſhould be ſo totally ignorant of its juriſdiction; or, knowing its proper and very limited juriſdiction, ſhould ſpeak of it in ſo very pompous and impoſing a tone. The truth is, that, in the reign of CHARLES II. a charter of incorporation and controul was applied for, and obtained; and it forms the charter under which the Company of Apothecaries now act*. But not having been of immemorial date, nor ever confirmed by any ſubſequent act of parliament, it is only of authority in caſes of voluntary ſubmiſſion, by

* The firſt charter was granted in the reign of JAMES I: the above, obtained in the reign of CHARLES II. is little more than a confirmation of the former. Hiſt. of Med. p. 109.

becoming

becoming voluntary members. Yet even the reputed juriſdiction of this Company, like that of the College of Phyſicians, extends, at the utmoſt, but to a circumference of *ſeven miles* from the capital. And as to the actual examination now in uſe, among its own members, reſpecting medical ability (for every other ſpecies of examination muſt be irrelevant) it is ſufficient to remark, that a very large number of them conſiſts of perſons who, like the Squire himſelf, do not pretend to be profeſſional men, or to be poſſeſt of any profeſſional knowledge at all*; and yet who have, nevertheleſs, found no kind of difficulty in procuring admiſſion, unleſs it may have been that of paying the exorbitant fine which, of late years more eſpecially, the Company have thought proper to demand. Where then are "thoſe full and comprehenſive powers†"—where, I enquire, is that "law of the land which is already in full force, as far as it can be applied, to remedy the evils complained of,‡" to which this writer ſo exult-

* Murepf. p. 44. † P. 5. ‡ P. 32.

ingly

ingly adverts? Is it not obvious that there is no ſhadow of adequate juriſdiction whatſoever? And is it not equally obvious, that the moſt full and competent juriſdiction is inceſſantly demanded? It is but about thirty or forty years ſince, that the Company of Apothecaries thought ſo themſelves, and applied to the legiſlature for a confirmation and extenſion of their authorities. Then, indeed, had druggiſts reaſon to complain; for the attack was, at that time, levelled, not againſt ignorant pretenders and impoſtors, of whatever name or deſcription, as at preſent, but againſt druggiſts alone, as to their compounding medical preparations and preſcriptions, whilſt every apothecary was ſtill to be allowed to compound and practiſe without any inveſtigation, as to the qualifications and abilities he poſſeſſed. The plan, however, was ſpeedily diſcovered, as well in this as in many other reſpects, to be too ſelfiſh and contracted; and it met with the fate it deſerved.

But I muſt not ſpeak too contemptuouſly even of this plan, for our own is not free from the ſame imputation of ſelf-intereſt: my oppoſer,

poſer, on the contrary, has repeatedly and ſtrenuouſly accuſed us of it*. And yet with the ſame kind of *conſiſtency* on which I have before had occaſion to animadvert, at the moment he is bringing this forward againſt us, as a high crime and miſdemeanor, he tells us that " if the reality of a grievance be proved, the motives for a reform are of no conſequence" whatever†.

We do not pretend to be poſſeſſed of ſuch exalted patriotiſm, or to be ſo far removed from the common routine of human motives, volitions, and actions, as to be uninfluenced by all perſonal conſiderations whatever. But we take a laudable pleaſure in reflecting that the conduct we are purſuing, and the object we have in view is, at leaſt, as much connected with the genuine and intrinſic welfare of the public at large, as of the pharmaceutic community itſelf. And, whilſt theſe two intereſts are thus indiſſolubly united, it muſt require a much larger ſhare of ſophiſtry than Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. is poſſeſt of, to prove that the part we are acting is reprehenſible.

* Murepſ. p. 4, 34. † P. 4.

At

At the oppoſition which, ſince the publication of the firſt edition of this book, has been excited againſt us, we are not ſurprized; on the contrary, we expected and predicted it*. Againſt the intereſts and paſſions of ſelfiſh men, or ſelfiſh bodies of men, reformation will ever make but a tardy progreſs. Great is DIANA of the EPHESIANS, was the hue and cry of intereſted men in former ages. Mr. Bradney ſeems to be poſſeſt of a good chriſtian-like knowledge of his bible, and will eaſily apply the whole ſtory.

It was with ſuch an intereſted and unmanly ſpirit the Company of Apothecaries reſiſted our late petition to the Houſe of Commons; and were able, by ſecret and artful miſrepreſentations, to obtain a temporary triumph over us. It is a triumph, however, that we envy them not; nor is it a triumph that can be of long duration. Already, indeed, are their miſrepreſentations, in a great meaſure, done away; and the effect of ſuch a conduct will be more beneficial to our cauſe than half the

* Hiſt. of Med. p. 171.

exertions

exertions we could have made ourſelves. Truth and juſtice will prove victorious in the iſſue; and ſhould the conteſt continue five or ſix years longer than it has now laſted, it will not much exceed the period which was, ſome time ſince, devoted to a concern of the ſame kind in Ireland; and we ſhall even then be ſatisfied with our ſucceſs.

As to the preſent edition of this little volume, but few alterations, and thoſe of no moment, occur in it. For, though I truſt I ſhall ever be open to every inſtance of true criticiſm, and liberal animadverſion, I have have not been able to derive any advantage from the labours of Joſeph Bradney, Eſq. I am obliged to him, however, for the compliments he has caſually paid me*, and regret that it is not in my power to return them.

* Page 12, 34.

THE

HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

SECT. I.

Of the State of Medicine, so far as it relates to the Apothecary, among the Greeks, Romans, Arabians, the earlier Ages of France, Italy, and Germany. The immediate Occupation of the Apothecary, during these different Eras, and the Rank he obtained among the different Branches of the Medical Profession. The Existence of any such Occupation as that of the modern Druggist investigated and denied, and the Quarter pointed out from whence the Apothecary was supplied with the Drugs he stood in need of.

THERE is no small difficulty in determining by what means mankind first obtained an idea of the medical virtues of herbs and plants, and

became anxious, when in a ſtate of ſickneſs, for ſubſtances which they abhorred and rejected when in a ſtate of health. And we cannot be much ſurpriſed, therefore, at the fancies of thoſe philoſophers who have imagined that the firſt knowledge of medicine was obtained either by a divine revelation communicated by the Almighty to ſome of the earlier ſages, as ADAM*, MOSES†, HERMES‡, OSIRIS§, and ESCULAPIUS‖, or acquired by minute attention to the inſtinctive actions of particular animals. Thus the Ibis, who is reported to have a habit of introducing its bill into its anus, and injecting hereby a quantity of water into the inteſtines, is ſuppoſed to

* Le Clerc. Hiſt. Med.—De Santeul Proprietés de la Med. par rap. à la vie civile.

† Euſeb. Præp. Evang. lib. 9. ‡ Diod. Sic. lib. 1.

§ Plutarc. de Iſid. et Oſyrid.

‖ Mat. Fermic. lib. 3. cap. 1.

have

have taught mankind the uſe of enemas*. Thus HERODOTUS attributes the diſcovery of MELAMPUS, that the melampodium or black hellebore was poſſeſſed of a purgative property, to his having noticed that property exerted on goats who had brouſed in paſtures where this herb was indigenous and frequent. And thus again PLINY attributes the introduction of venæſection or phlebotomy, to a cuſtom which he informs us the Hippopotamus poſſeſſes, whenever

* It is in alluſion to this report, that Dr. HOWE in the humorous and meritorious poem of Sir S. GARTH, is repreſented as having his creſt ſurmounted with the figure of an ibis.

Beneath his blazing orb bright Querpo ſhone
Himſelf an Atlas, and his ſhield a Moon.
A peſtle for his truncheon, led the van,
And his high helmet was a cloſe-ſtool pan.
His creſt an IBIS, brandiſhing her beak,
And winding in looſe folds her ſpiral neck.

DISPENSARY.

it becomes plethoric and unwieldy, of opening a vein in its leg with a ſharp pointed reed found on the banks of the NILE. But as it is probable that all the inſtinctive knowledge the different claſſes and families of animals poſſeſs, is entirely traditionary, and copied from the firſt inventors of particular actions by contemporary animals, and afterwards imitated by their offspring through all ſucceeding generations*, ſo it is probable that the ſcience of medicine was, in ſome meaſure, cultivated before ſuch inſtinctive knowledge had been acquired, and ſuch actions invented. And yet to ſuppoſe that the ſupreme being ſhould immediately interfere and inſtruct mankind in the ſcience of medicine, is to ſuppoſe that he would act with reſpect

* Vide Darwin's Zoonomia, vol. I.

to

to this ſcience, as he has never done with reſpect to any other.

It is much more probable therefore, that this ſcience, like all others, derived its origin from accident, and that neceſſity, which is always productive of invention. And it is equally probable, I think, that that branch of the medical profeſſion which is now termed ſurgery, and conſiſts in an attention to the external phenomena of the body, was firſt introduced and cultivated before the more occult cauſes of internal diſeaſes were ſtudied and attempted to be inveſtigated*.

In the firſt and ſimpler ages of mankind, before the introduction of luxury and artificial wants, when the wiſhes were few, the diet ſlender, and the con-

* Vide Cels.—de Medicina, lib. 1, præf.

ſtitution unexpoſed to hereditary, or infectious compiaints, but ſeldom indeed could mankind have been the ſubjects of internal diſeaſes of any claſs: while warfare and hunting, the exerciſes to which they were principally addicted, muſt have expoſed them to a vaſt variety of external evils, which would call forth all their ingenuity to palliate or remove: an ingenuity which muſt certainly have been aſſiſted by the public diſſection of conſecrated victims, and the embalming the bodies of the more opulent. Hence the GREEK word iatros*, and the LATIN ſynonym medicus, though at a very early period of time, and for many centuries afterwards, made uſe of to expreſs all the different branches of the medical profeſſion, in their original and primitive ſenſe refer rather to the external operation of the ſurgeon, than

* ιατρος.

the

the more latent intentions of the phyſician and apothecary. Iatrion* is therefore uſed with the ſame reference by PLATO, and medicina long afterwards by PLAUTUS to expreſs the ſurgery or office where the ſurgeon attended his patients: while the ſhop or office where medicines were ſold or compounded, was occaſionally denominated apotheca† or repoſitorium; a general expreſſion, and which might have been applied with as much propriety, and at times was ſo applied‡, to any other buſineſs or profeſſion

* Ιατρειον. † Αποθηκα.

‡ Quid ego quod periit petam?
Niſi etiam laborem ad damnum apponem APOTHECAM inſuper. Plaut. Trinum. vers fin.

The French term boutique therefore which is obviouſly derived from the Greek αποθηκα, ſtill retains this general meaning. Though the French language has likewiſe the term apoticaire (apothecary) from whence were probably deduced the German and Dutch ſynonyms apothefer, apotheker. The Italian language however has no ſuch term of Greek etymology, but employs inſtead thereof

as to that of medicine. It is however the term from whence the greater part of modern languages have derived a name for thoſe who ſtill engage in the two-fold occupation of medical ſtudy and pharmaceutic compoſition*.

In theſe ruder ages of the world, and before medicine became a diſtinct profeſſion, every one was occaſionally a phyſician, and contributed by his own little ſhare of individual experience to the general ſtock of public information. At EGYPT, and BABYLON, this ſeems

thereof SPECIALE, a term borrowed from the Latin word ſpecialis, which was ſometimes uſed, inſtead of pharmaceuta or pharmacopola, to expreſs the profeſſion of the apothecary.

* The term Surgery or Chirurgery (χειρουργικη) is either derived from CHIRON the centaur, of whoſe medical ſkill HOMER makes early mention; or from two Greek words ſignifying manual operation; or, according to EUSTATHIUS, from both; Χειρωνα γάρ φασει τρωθεντα ποτε την χειρα, τὴν διὰ βοτανῶν ἐπινοησαθαι ἰατρικην. Euſt ad Il.

to

to have been particularly the caſe, where the diſeaſed were expoſed, in the moſt public ſtreets, to the notice of every paſſenger; that thoſe who had formerly labored under ſimilar complaints might enumerate the means they had made uſe of to recover the enjoyment of health*. And, according to STRABO, no one was ſuffered to paſs by without offering his opinion and advice†.

But it was ſoon acknowledged that the public health was a concern of too much conſequence to be entruſted to ſuch precarious, and, oftentimes, oppoſite deciſions; and the art of healing became, from this time, more immediately the province of the ſtudious and the learned, of the legiſlator, the philoſopher, and the prieſt. ATHOTIS,

* Herod. lib 6. † Lib. 16.

king of EGYPT, is reported by EUSEBIUS to have written ſome treatiſes on anatomy*; and SOLOMAN appears, in ſome degree, to have been acquainted with the ſame ſubject†, and to have had a very general knowledge of the botany of his time‡. The EGYPTIAN prieſts were all of them obliged to engage in the practice of phyſic, and each was prohibited from attending to the ſtudy of more than one ſingle diſeaſe. Their perſons were deemed ſacred, and a third part of the revenues of the country were allotted to them for their ſupport, and the proſecution of their two-fold profeſſion§. The Bramins of HINDOOSTAN appear to have been regarded with an equal degree of

* Præp. Evang. lib. 9. † Eccleſ. cap. 12.
‡ Lib. Reg. 1. cap. 4. 33.
§ Diod. Sicul. lib. 1.

veneration;

veneration; and like the prieſts of EGYPT, to have allotted a very few diſeaſes only to the notice of each individual among themſelves*. Among the ancient GAULS the druids were both legiſlators and phyſicians; and PLINY has enumerated the miſſeltoe and ſeveral other herbs, which were frequently reſorted to, in the courſe of their practice.

It is much to be regretted on the account of medicine, as well as from political views, that the late embaſſy to CHINA, was under the neceſſity of making ſo untimely a return to EUROPE. In the vaſt tract of country, and the varieties of climate which that populous kingdom includes, it can ſcarcely be imagined but a multitude of

* Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuſes,

uſeful, and, perhaps, ſpecific drugs might have been diſcovered; and that much information might have been collected in the application of them from the knowledge and experience of that ingenious people.

According to the accounts of the Jeſuits, their kings were, many ages ago, accuſtomed to pay much attention to the concerns of medicine. And EUROPEANS were more diſpoſed to entruſt themſelves, in a ſtate of ſickneſs, to the care of the phyſicians of the country, than to thoſe of any foreign nation. Their knowledge of anatomy, however, appears to have been but ſmall and inaccurate; and father PARENNI, therefore, at the deſire of the emperor CAM-HI, tranſlated into the TARTAR language, towards the cloſe of the laſt century, the Treatiſe of DIONIS,

DIONIS, formerly demonſtrator of Anatomy at the Royal Garden at PARIS *.

It is, after all, among the GREEKS alone we muſt look for any minute attention to medicine at a very early period of time, as a ſeparate ſcience and profeſſion.

I have already obſerved that the term iatros †, now generally tranſlated phyſician, was the common term for every one who pretended to any branch of medical or pharmaceutic knowledge; and the ſubſtance or drug he employed for the cure of thoſe who were ſick, was denominated pharmacon ‡, a word originally applied to every thing that could operate upon the body, whether

* Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuſes. Tom. IV.

† ιατρος ‡ φαρμακον.

to

to injure or aſſiſt it, whether it were a poiſon, a remedy or an incantation, and which, in this ſenſe, exactly correſponds with the ENGLISH term charm or ſpell. In proceſs of time, however, it became confined to the drugs made uſe of by the medical practitioner in the proſecution of his profeſſion.

The firſt phyſicians among the GREEKS, and even among the ROMANS, were obliged to act as ſurgeons, and to compound and adminiſter their own medicines. The former had, undoubtedly, occaſionally their demiourgoi*, or ſtudents, and the latter their miniſtri, ſervitores, or aſſiſtants†;

* δημιουργοι.

† Iſti vero ſunt herbarii, unguentarii, coqui, cataplaſmata adhibentes, humore conſpergentes, clyſteria immittentes, ſcarificantes, venam ſcindentes, cucurbiculas affigentes. Galen. Tom. III. p. 687.

but

but they were, at leaſt, expected to ſuperintend themſelves, and made it a part of their profeſſion ſo to do, in all that related to the offices of ſtudy, compoſition, or manual operation. It is in conſequence hereof that HOMER has repreſented PLUTO, when wounded by the arrow of HERCULES, as applying to PÆON, the phyſician among the gods, for ſurgical aſſiſtance, and this phyſician as affording him relief.

It has been imagined by EUSTATHIUS, CASTELLANUS*, and ſome other

* Hactenus quidem medendi ſcientia ſimplex, nec in ullas diſtracta partes unius operâ tractabatur. Secuere fratres, et portionibus eam exercere cœperunt, quaſi charitas ſtudiorum æmulatione dirimi potuiſſet. Et quidem MACHAON partem eam excoluit, quæ manu medetur et, bello TROJANO non mediocrem opem commilitionibus ſuis attulit. Nec alius in eo prædicat Homerus quàm quod aptè poſſet.

Ιόνς τ' ἐκέαμέειν, ἐπὶ τ' ἤπια φάρμακα πάσσειν

Verum

other writers, that ſo early as the days of HOMER the art of healing was divided into the two diſtinct claſſes of phyſic and ſurgery; and MACHAON and PODALIRIUS, the ſons of ESCUPALAPIUS, both perſonally engaged in the attack upon TROY, have been repreſented as laying the firſt foundation for this claſſification, by their dividing the profeſſion of their father, and each of them prohibiting to himſelf the occupation of the other, the former

Verum PODALIRIUS abditarum, et morbos continentium cauſarum notitiam profeſſus, ejus medicinæ principia condidit, quam deinde ſequens ætas rationalem appellavit. Argumento ſunt verſus apud EUSTATHIUM in locum HOMERI modo laudatum

ἔτερον δ' ἑτερόυ κυδιον ἔθηκεν.
Τω μεν κουφοτὲρας κειρας πορεν ἕκτε βελεμνα
Σαρκος ἑλεῖν, τμηξαὶ τε και, ἔλκεα παντ' ἀκέσασθαι.
Τῶ δὲἀρ' ἀκρίβεα πάντα ἐνι ϛήθεσσν ἔθηκεν,
Ασκυπάτε γνῶναι, καὶ ἐπαλθε' οισασθαι.

Petr. Caſtell. Vit Illuſtr. Med. p. 16.

confining

confining himself solely to the practice of surgery, and the latter to that of physic. But PODALIRIUS is represented by CALABER as declaring that from his brother, who had educated him as a son, after the death of his father, he had himself learnt the knowledge and cure of diseases. An obvious proof that MACHAON must, at that time, have been engaged in the practice of physic himself. And that PODALYRIUS was accustomed to the practice of surgery, as well as MACHAON, must be acknowledged from his having attended, on his return home, the royal daughter of DAMATHÆUS, who had lamed herself by a fall from the top of a house, and his having married her on her recovery.

HIPPOCRATES, who was a descendent from PODALIRIUS, not only wrote more

more fully than any of his predeceſſors on ſurgery and anatomy, but was a bold and ſkilful operator himſelf; and the medicines he preſcribed there is every reaſon to believe, he compounded with his own hands, or at leaſt ſuperintended the preparation of, in his own houſe. This, indeed, was the opinion of GALEN, and he has well ſupported it in his book on Theriaca†.

The practice of HIPPOCRATES was, for the moſt part, the practiſe of his contemporaries and immediate ſucceſſors. It is certain, ſays CONRINGIUS, "that the antient phyſicians prepared all their medicines with their own hands; that they attended to ſurgery, healed wounds, and performed every operation the medical art requires*". And this

† Lib. de Theriac. ad Piſon.

* Introduct. in Art. Med. Cap. 1. Sect. 22.

combination

combination of practice is even now to be traced, and that very generally in moſt countries of EUROPE; not, indeed, amongſt phyſicians, but amongſt thoſe who unite in one perſon the offices of the ſurgeon and apothecary.

Amidſt the armies of all nations this has particularly held true. HOMER, as before obſerved, has, in general, made thoſe heroes who were acquainted with ſurgery, acquainted with pharmacy at the ſame time. VIRGIL has not deviated from his great prototype in this reſpect. And therefore, IAPIS, who is renowned for his ſkill in the knowledge of medicine, is repreſented as being of equal merit as a ſurgeon and a pharmaceutiſt. The ſublimer warriors of MILTON had no occaſion for ſurgery. They were capable of being wounded, but were not

not expoſed to any fatal conſequences from their wounds.

> ——————th' ethereal ſubſtance cloſed,
> Not long diviſible:—for ſpirits that live
> Vital in every part, not as frail man
> In entrails, heart, or head, liver or reins,
> Cannot but by annihilating die*.

Nor do they appear to have been ſubject to other diſeaſes of any kind. But TASSO, whoſe chirurgical knowledge certainly was not equal to that of HOMER, has repreſented EROTIMUS, the ſurgeon of GEOFFREDO, as a practitioner deeply verſed in the knowledge of all plants and their juices, as well as a poet, whoſe numbers were worthy of immortality. But with all his knowledge and accompliſhments, he was not able to extract

* Par. Loſt. B. 6.

the

the barb of a broken arrow from the leg of the commander of the cruſade, without the aſſiſtance of an angel ſent on purpoſe from heaven; who, by the aid of a fomentation of dittany, accompliſhed at length the wiſhed for cure.

L'arte ſue* non ſecanda, ed al diſegno
Par che per nulla via fortuna arrida:
E nel piagato eroe giunge a tal ſegno
L'aſpro martir che n'è quaſi omicida.
Or qui l'Angel cuſtode, al duol indegno
Moſſo di lui, colſe *dittamo* in IDA:
Erba crinita di purpureo fiore,
Ch'have in giovani fogl.e alto valore†.

I ſhall

* D'Erotimo.

† Gerus. Liberat. This Dittany is a medicine of old repute; and the cure it is repreſented as performing, like the whole of the reſt of the ſtory, is an entire imitation of the cure performed by the ſame herb on ÆNEAS when wounded by TURNUS, and when nothing elſe was capable of affording him relief.

Hic

I ſhall not here enter into any controverſy whether all the advantages of the art of healing are beſt obtained by ſuch a unity of practice, or whether the public may be chiefly benefited by a disjunction into diſtinct branches. Much ſolid argument might be adduced on either ſide. But I cannot avoid obſerving that within a few centuries of the era of HIPPOCRATES, the diviſion of the medical ſcience into the three grand branches of phyſician, apo-

Hic Venus indigno nati concuſſa dolore,
Dictamnum genetrix Cretæâ carpit ab Idâ
Puberibus caulem foliis, et flore comantem
Purpureo, &c. Eneid lib. 12.

The poets are indebted to PLUTARCH for a knowledge of this wonderful medicine, who tells us that the wild goats in the iſland of Crete have recourſe to it when wounded, and find the arrows, which have pierced their ſides, and ſtill cleave to them, ſpontaneouſly drop off.

De Solert. Anim.

thecary,

thecary, and ſurgeon, very generally, though by no means univerſally, took place.

Several circumſtances contributed to produce ſuch a diviſion. The increaſe of luxury, which was every where prevailing throughout all GREECE, and eſpecially at ATHENS, introduced a much greater frequency and recurrence of every diſeaſe; and the habitude which mankind had now generally acquired of conſulting phyſicians on almoſt every occaſion, inſtead of having recourſe to their own family receipts and perſonal experience, produced ſuch an influx of engagements as to require more than the time a phyſician of high reputation had it in his power to beſtow. I have already mentioned that ſuch had ſtudents or pupils under their patronage to aſſiſt them in their various occupa-

occupations. As the occupation of viſiting encreaſed and engroſſed nearly the whole of their time, it was commodious to them to entruſt the preparation and perſonal application of their preſcriptions, as well as the performance of all manual operations to thoſe who were thus in the habit of being intimately acquainted with their intentions and mode of practice. By theſe means, ſome became intimately converſant with chirurgical, and others with pharmaceutic concerns; and adhering, after their initiation and probation, to the reſpective branches of the profeſſion to which they had more immediately been trained, they grew gradually leſs attentive to every other concomitant branch, and in their own private and future practice, learnt to conſult the phyſician who was their tutor in caſes only of extreme emergency,

gency, or where his united and more extenſive ſkill and experience were deemed neceſſary. The phyſician, on the other hand, having thus obtained a proportional increaſe of leiſure, was the more enabled to bend his mind to theoretic reaſonings and inductions; and from thence to erect, what is at all times moſt devoutly to be wiſhed for, an effectual and ſucceſsful practice on ſolid and rational principles. The preſents and fees which he received were very large and liberal, ſo much ſo, at times, as to excite our aſtoniſhment at their value; and, in every inſtance, ſo conſiderable as to render even a circumſcribed practice the ſource of an affluent livelihood. It was impoſſible, however, that the poorer claſſes of citizens could contribute ſo largely for medical advice as the phyſician, from his practice, among the higher orders,

might, in ſome meaſure, have expected; and a ſource of medical aſſiſtance was thus opened for every rank and claſſification of citizenſhip. For the ſurgeon and apothecary, both retaining an open ſhop, at which they vended, and diſpoſed, without trouble, of the different drugs and materials they employed; and making, at the ſame time, an individual charge for the medicaments they had occaſion to uſe in their private practice, maintained an eaſy, and reſpectable ſtation in life, without expecting the fees and gratuities which were laviſhed on the phyſician*.

* GALEN expreſsly declares, that no phyſician of high reputation would attend to diſeaſes of ſmall importance in his era. Tom. VII. p. 38. though it appears that thoſe of an inferior ſtation made uſe of every poſſible art of flattery and extreme complaiſance, of public jeſting and aſſociating with the rich, of ſuperb dreſs, and deeply ſtudied addreſs to introduce themſelves into practice.

Ad Poſthum. de Præcogn. Tom. IV.

It was about the time of ERASISTRATUS, as CELSUS conjectures, that this diviſion of medical ſcience firſt became general; though many, for ages afterwards, continued in the practice of every branch of the profeſſion, whether among the GREEKS, the ROMANS, or the ARABIANS. ERASISTRATUS himſelf was not free from this combination of practice; for, among other medical patients, he attended, in his extreme illneſs, and firſt diſcovered the love of ANTIOCHUS for STRATONICE, whom SELEUCUS, his father, had then lately married. Though his attention appears principally to have been directed to ſurgical improvements and anatomical inveſtigations. He received his medical education firſt under CHRYSIPPUS, a phyſician whoſe name is mentioned by GALEN, and who was contemporary with PHILIP, king of MACEDONIA, and

completed it at the ALEXANDRIAN ſchool; where, even at this early period, it appears, there were human ſkeletons for the advantage of the ſtudents in medicine*. It was not, however, with the contemplation of ſuch dry and imperfect ſubjects alone that ERASISTRATUS was capable of ſatisfying his thirſt after anatomical purſuits. With a curioſity that has been condemned as barbarous and inhuman, by many phyſicians, from his own era to the days of HOFFMAN†, he diſſected the living bodies of a variety of malefactors who were preſented to him for this purpoſe by SELEUCUS; imagining that the changes introduced by the very act of dying were ſo numerous and conſiderable as to render it im-

* Adminiſtr. Anat. lib. I. cap. 2.
† Med. Rat. Syſt. Vol. VI.

poſſible

poſſible to obtain, in any degree, a complete knowledge of the human ſtructure by the moſt accurate diſſections after death*. In this opinion and practice he was ſtrenuouſly ſupported by HEROPHILUS, his contemporary; whom TERTULLIAN denominates a butcher, and repreſents as having diſſected ſix hundred living ſubjects†. Without inveſtigating the validity of thoſe arguments which have been adduced in ſupport of, or in oppoſition to, a practice ſo daring, and apparently repugnant to the finer feelings of the boſom; it cannot but be noticed by all who are acquainted with the ſtate of anatomy at this early period, that the reſult of ſuch a practice was highly advantageous to medical ſcience; and

* Cels de Medicin. præfat.
† De An. cap. 10.

that if ERASISTRATUS and HEROPHILUS were not the firſt anatomiſts who diſſected the human ſtructure, they were, at leaſt, the firſt anatomiſts who carried their art to any degree of perfection, and founded an epoch of great moment and importance to the literary world, as well as to the health of mankind at large *.

The occupation of the different branches of the medical profeſſion, as at this time practiſed, does not appear to be altogether ſimilar to the occupation of the preſent day. To the phy-

* Le Clerc. Hiſt. Med. CASTELLANUS gives us the following conciſe account of the death of this celebrated phyſician and anatomiſt. Ætate grandævus, et immedicabili pedis ulcere tabeſcens; *bene habet*, inquit, *quod patriæ memoriæ refriceretur*; hauſtaque cicutâ diem obiit. Sepultus eſt juxta Mycalem montem ex adverſo Sami. Vit. Illuſtr. Med.

ſician

ſician was rather allotted, according to the diſtribution of CELSUS, the enquiry into the ſecret cauſe of the diſeaſe, its various ſymptoms, its prognoſis, together with what ſpecies of diet, and other domeſtic arrangement, might beſt contribute to bring it to a happy iſſue, than the direct preſcription and introduction of medicines*. This laſt was more immediately the office of the apothecary, who was hereby ſuppoſed to inveſtigate deeply the nature of the drugs he employed, to be ſcrupulous as to their quality, and ſeduouſly attentive as to their combination. To him likewiſe almoſt excluſively belonged the care of tumours, wounds, ulcers, and other external or topical affections†. While the office of the ſurgeon was confined to caſes of mere manual ope-

* Lib. 1. præfat. † Lib. 5 et 6.

ration, together with a minute attention to the ſtudy of anatomy. Though even the ſurgeon did not occaſionally omit the uſe of regimen and medicines, while he thus exhibited himſelf principally to notice by the dexterity of his hand, and thoſe external effects which, amongſt all the different branches of medicine, are by far the moſt obvious*.

So cloſely, indeed, are theſe different branches united, that it was even then found, as it is now, impoſſible to ſeparate them, by any limit the moſt accurate imagination could draw, ſo completely and entirely, as that the one branch or diviſion ſhould, in no in-

* Ea (chirurgia ſcilicet) non quidem medicamenta atque victus rationem omittit; ſed manu tamen plurimum præſtat; eſtque ejus effectus inter omnes medicinæ partes evidentiſſimus. Cels. lib. 7. præfat.

ſtance,

ſtance, interfere with the other. Id, therefore, ſays CELSUS, ante omnia ſcire convenit, quod omnes medicinæ partes ita connexæ ſunt ut ex toto ſeparari non poſſint: ſed ab eo nomen trahant, à quo plurimum petunt. Ergo ut illa, quæ victu curat, aliquando medicamentum adhibet; ſic illa quæ præcipue medicamentis pugnat, adhibere etiam rationem victus debet *.

The diviſion of the medical ſcience into the three branches to which CELSUS refers, we find ſtill exiſting, as a general partition, in the time of GALEN, about a century and a half afterwards. "That mode and manner of cure, ſays he, which is effected by the uſe of accuſtomed aliments, is called diet, or the regulation of the food; as that which is produced by common inciſions, cauſ-

* Lib 5. præfat.

tics, or whatever elſe, is performed by the hand, is denominated ſurgery. There is a third part of medicine, however, diſtinct from either of theſe, which is termed PHARMACY, and which compriſes the uſe of medicines*.

I have already obſerved that the term apothecary, though of GREEK derivation, was not in uſe among the GREEKS to expreſs either of theſe three offices or diviſions: though the word apotheca was ſometimes the appellation of the ſhop or repoſitory where the pharmaceutic practitioner kept his drugs, or expoſed them to ſale. The apothecary,

* Is curationis ductus contextuſque qui, per conſuetam materiam efficitur, diæta, id eſt victus ratio nuncupatur; ut qui, per conſuetas tum ſectiones, tum aduſtiones, et quæcunque alia manu fiant, chirurgia. Tertiam ab his medicinæ partem PHARMACEUTICEN dicunt quæ ſcilicet per medicamenta abſolvitur, perficiturque.

De Vict. Rat. Comment. lib. 1.

or

or practitioner in pharmacy, was, at this time, and nearly indiscriminately, denominated pharmaceuta, pharmacopola, pharmacopæus, pharmacotriba*; expressions which, with nearly a similarity of meaning and derivation, describe him under the several characters of a dealer, a vender, a compounder, and a dispenser of medicines. It is probable, however, as it occurs at the present day, that all who practised pharmacy, did not keep open any public shop; but that some of them compounded their preparations in a private dispensary; and hence the necessity, or at least the reason, for some of the above distinctions.

* Of these denominations the College of Physicians of London have generally employed the second and third only in their different edicts; and these are employed indiscriminately. The German physicians have indiscriminately employed the three first. Goelicke. Hist. Med.

Beſides the apothecary, or practitioner in pharmacy, Dr. JAMES ſeems rather inclined to believe that there were, among both the GREEKS and ROMANS, perſons who engaged in the modern occupation of the druggiſt, and whom he therefore diſtinguiſhes by this appellation. Perſons who ſupplied the apothecaries and ſurgeons with the ingredients for which they had occaſion, and who likewiſe compounded, though they never ventured to preſcribe medicines for the diſeaſed. And he ſuppoſes that ſuch perſons are to be traced among the GREEKS, under the denomination of ropopolai *, migmatopolai †, pantopolai ‡, and catholicoi §, and amongſt the ROMANS, ſeplaſiarii and pigmentarii.

* ῥωποπωλης.
† μιγματοπωλης.
‡ παντοπωλης.
§ καθολικος.

As

As the doctor has aſſerted this merely as his own conjecture, and not founded on any expreſs authority to which he has alluded; and as I am confident, from a variety of circumſtances, that in this conjecture he is altogether miſtaken, I ſhall take the liberty of inveſtigating it at ſome length, and of advancing ſome poſitions which oblige me to diſſent altogether from the opinion of this learned author.

And, firſt, the terms he has introduced, from the GREEK and LATIN writers to ſubſtantiate the exiſtence of the druggiſt, are the moſt general that can poſſibly be employed, and refer no more to the occupation of a druggiſt than to that of a confectioner or perfumer: excepting, indeed, the term migmatopoles which, if I rightly recollect, is once or twice made uſe of by

GALEN

GALEN by ſignifying a vender of compound medicines; though, even in thoſe inſtances, it will apply to the apothecary as well as to the druggiſt, and, from its derivation, to the venders of all other mixtures or compounds whatever. The term ropopoles I do not recollect having ever met with in any author as having the remoteſt reference to pharmacy: it is a general term applicable to every one who deals in articles, of any kind, of ſmall value, or who vends them in ſmall quantities. Pantopoles and catholicos are terms applicable only to general merchants or brokers, and pantopoleion is therefore uſed by GREEK writers to expreſs a forum or place of general ſale and reſort.

As to the LATIN terms ſeplaſius and pigmentarius they were only in general uſe to denote the occupation of perfumers:

mers: to whom the ROMAN ladies, and the coxcombs of their time reſorted for pomatums, paints, and ſweet-ſcented oils*. It is probable, however, that many of the articles the apothecary had occaſion to employ, he purchaſed both of theſe dealers, as well as of the pantopolai and catholicoi, or general merchants and importers: as it is certain that he did, in ſucceeding times, of grocers and importers of foreign ſpices; and from hence, perhaps, theſe expreſſions may have been underſtood to imply dealers in medicaments, as well as the other articles, which were vended at the ſame ſhops.

In the next place it muſt be obſerved that there could not poſſibly have been a

* Pigmentum is likewiſe uſed for the colours employed by painters in general: thus Plautus

Quem appelles atque zeuſis duo pingent pigmentis ulmeis. Epidic. vers. fin.

ſuffi-

ſufficient ſupply of buſineſs, in theſe earlier ages of medicine, to have ſupported the trade of a mere druggiſt.

Medicine being, at this time, divided into the three claſſes of diet, pharmacy, and ſurgery, it was doubted by a variety of the practitioners of the former claſs whether the introduction of drugs of any kind into the ſyſtem, when affected by diſeaſes, could be productive of any advantage. Many of the phyſicians of this branch, therefore, as ARETÆUS, and CÆLIUS AURELIANUS, both of whom lived at no great diſtance from the era of GALEN, diſcarded the uſe of medicaments altogether. And though, as CELSUS informs us, that branch of medical practitioners who cured by diet, ſometimes introduced preparations of drugs, he intimates that this was a practiſe not generally adopted, nor often made

made uſe of by thoſe of this claſs who who did adopt it*. Internal medicines, as we likewiſe learn from him, were in the ſame manner occaſionally employed by the ſurgeon, but his principal attention, he adds, was directed to manual operations. So that of the three branches of medicine at this time in exiſtence, the pharmaceutic only, or that practiſed by the apothecary, could be depended upon by the druggiſt, if indeed ſuch an occupation then exiſted, for his livelihood and ſupport.

And yet even here his expectations muſt have been perpetually diſappointed: for it is well known that all the principal practitioners in pharmacy, from the earlieſt ages to the time we are now ſpeaking of, prepared their own pre-

* Vide ſupr. in Præfat. lib. 1.

ſcriptions.

ſcriptions. GALEN endeavours to prove this with reſpect to HIPPOCRATES*; and whoever attentively peruſes the works of GALEN himſelf, will find ſuch minute directions for many of the compoſitions he introduces, as to prevent all heſitation on this ſubject with reſpect to this latter phyſician. CELSUS has confeſſedly written on all the three branches of medicine: but his treatiſe on pharmacy is ſo much more voluminous and minute than his two others, that it cannot be doubted but his knowledge on this ſubject was derived from practice†; and CORNARIUS has therefore ranked

* De Theriac. Le Clerc. Hiſt. Med.

† Many of the treatiſes publiſhed by practitioners in GREECE and ROME, were on account thereof, entitled the Shop of the Phyſician, that is of the practitioner of pharmacy, for every one who was engaged in any branch of medicine was termed phyſician. HIPPOCRATES and DIOCLES both wrote a book with this title.

him

him amongſt the apothecaries of his age*.

But there is a third reaſon againſt the probability of the exiſtence of the occupation of the modern druggiſt among the GREEKS and ROMANS, which is, I think, as cogent as any of the others; I mean that the medicines employed, and the diſeaſes that demanded their uſe, were both much fewer in number among theſe nations than at preſent. No GREEK writer has enumerated ſo long a catalogue of medicines as HIPPOCRATES, who had travelled through EGYPT, BABYLON, and the INDIES, for the expreſs purpoſe of collecting medical

* Quin ipſum pharmaca præbuiſſe, non mediocra gloriâ, ex ipſius ad Iul. Caliſtum Epiſtola ſatis liquet. Quorum artificioſam miſtionem ſe accuratè intellexiſſe prodit ipſe. lib. 7. cap. 26. Unde Cornarius fortaſſis inter PHARMACEUTICOS repoſuit. A. C. Cels. Vit.

know-

knowledge. But the medicines HIPPOCRATES has enumerated do not amount to much more than half the number contained in the preſent edition of the LONDON Pharmacopœia. The expedition of ALEXANDER to EGYPT introduced, indeed, ſome ſhort time after, ſome ſmall acceſſion to the number, as Aloes and a few others. But it was not till medicine had been cultivated as a ſcience in ARABIA, that the preparations of ſpices and muſk, thoſe of ſyrups, conſerves, and all the complicated liſt in which ſugar is uſed as a baſis, together with the milder cathartics of manna, ſenna, caſſia, tamarinds, and rhubarb, were employed in the Pharmaceutic Diſpenſary. Even at this time chemiſtry, which now produces ſo long, and effective a catalogue of our materials, can ſcarcely be ſaid to have been reſorted to from medical motives.

RHAZES

RHAZES and MESUE are, indeed, reported to have made uſe of diſtilled waters in their practiſe; but it was not till two or three centuries afterwards; it was not till the age of ALBERTUS MAGNUS, ROGER BACON, and LULLY, that medicine began to derive much benefit from the ſcience of chemiſtry. Since this period it is not to be wondered at that our reſources ſhould have become infinitely more numerous: chemiſtry has been reduced to true principles, and applied to definite intentions; and the daring ſail of commerce, that has left ſcarcely any region unexplored, has returned with the productions of Peruvian bark, genſeng, ſarſaparilla, guaiacum, and an almoſt innumerable variety of other materials from AFRICA, CHINA, and AMERICA.

I have

I have ſaid that not only the medicines employed, but alſo the diſeaſes for which they were employed, were much fewer in number among the GREEKS and ROMANS than at the preſent day.

OVID, however, complains of the multitudes of diſeaſes that exiſted in his time, and pays a handſome compliment to the profeſſion that oppoſed them,

Et quoniam varíant morbi, variabimus artes,
Mille mali ſpecies, mille ſalutis erunt.

But had he lived at the preſent period he would have found an infinitely greater ſcope for complaint, whatever he might have found for compliment.

Whoever inveſtigates modern practiſe will find that at leaſt half of it is beſtowed in oppoſing the ravages and baneful

baneful effects of the ſmall-pox, the meaſles, the ſyphilis, the ſcurvy, and the rachitis. Yet theſe are diſeaſes not one of which can, with certainty, be traced in any of the writings of the GREEK or ROMAN phyſicians: whilſt, at the ſame time we are not confident that there is any one complaint HIPPOCRATES has enumerated which has abſolutely diſappeared from the world ſince his time. The practiſe, therefore, of antient phyſicians and pharmaceutiſts muſt have been but ſmall, indeed, when compared with the greater number, and perpetual repetition of diſeaſes that are continually imploring the aſſiſtance of the moderns. And had druggiſts exiſted in ſuch earlier times, and even obtruded, as they now do, on the proper offices of pharmacy, they could not have been able to have ſupported themſelves and their families.

from

From ſuch obſervations, therefore, I think the concluſion is obvious, that no ſuch occupation as that of the druggiſt of modern times, exiſted in any period of the hiſtory of antient GREECE or ROME. There is no term, in either of theſe languages, by which he can be diſcriminated; the uſe and propriety of medicines were far from being univerſally ſanctioned and employed by all the branches of medical practitioners; the practitioners who did ſanction them prepared them, for the moſt part, in their own ſhops, and diſpenſaries; the medicines which were known were comparatively but very few; and the diſeaſes in which they could poſſibly be introduced did not compriſe, as to frequency of recurrence, more than half the number of the diſeaſes of the preſent day.

Much

Much more might be ſaid on this ſubject if it were neceſſary; but I will only take the liberty of obſerving, that had druggiſts exiſted in the time of GALEN, they, like all others who had any poſſible connection with medical ſcience, would have likewiſe acquired, amongſt the vulgar, the appellation of medici, or medical men. For this term was become of ſuch common and indiſcriminate uſe at this period, as to irritate the ROMAN phyſician in no ſmall degree. "Every one, he exclaims, who pretends to any ſurgical operation, whether for the rupture, the dropſy, or the ſtone, is inveſted with the common name of medicus; as are thoſe likewiſe, whoſe attention is directed to the ſtudy of any particular member: thus auriſts, occuliſts, and even dentiſts, as I apprehend, are each denominated by the general title of medicus: it is the ſame appella-

tion which is given to thoſe who are diſtinguiſhed by the materials they employ, whether the dietetic, or the pharmaceutic practitioner, or even he who only employs ſimple herbs in his attempts to cure. There is not indeed a giver of wine or of purges, or any materials of a ſimilar kind, but has this name applied to him in conſequence thereof*." But we meet here with no ſuch term as druggiſt, or any thing that will correſpond thereto: neither ſeplaſius nor migmatopoles, nor any of the various words Dr. JAMES has ſelected and applied to any one branch of this occupation.

The midwives of GREECE and ROME, who did not in general practiſe with

* Etſi enim quam maxime hunc herniæ diſſectorem, illum perforatorem, alium calculi detractorem nuncupent, omnes tamen iſtos communi nomine medicos appellant, &c. Ad Thraſyb.

much

much reſpectability, and were ſometimes forbidden to practiſe at all, were denominated iatriæ*, and medicæ as well as obſtetrices; and PLINY has made uſe of the term vulnerum medicus in ſpeaking of a ſurgeon or apothecary; though, indeed, long before his time PLAUTUS has introduced EPIDICUS as uſing the expreſſion medicina for the ſhop of this laſt practitioner,

utinam conveniam domi
Periphanem, per omnem urbem, quem ſum defeſſus quærere,
Per MEDICINAS, per tonſtrinas, in gymnaſio atque in foro†, &c.

I know not, however, either in common uſe, or in any of the writings of theſe authors, any application of the term medicus to any occupation that can poſſibly be interpreted by the word druggiſt, at leaſt as it is uſed in modern times, nor any other expreſſion under which he could be repreſented.

* ιατριαι. † Epidic.

Ambubaiarum collegia, pharmacopolæ,
Mendici, mimæ, balatrones; hoc genus omne
Mœſtum ac ſollicitum eſt cantoris morte Tigelli
Quippe benignus erat*.

Had the ROMANS poſſeſſed any ſuch occupation as the druggiſt's, or any term by which to have expreſſed ſuch an occupation, we might reaſonably have expected to have found it introduced amidſt this family of mourners: and its not being introduced is a ſtrong proof againſt the exiſtence of any ſuch term or occupation at the death of TIGELLIUS.

It may perhaps be contended that the branch of profeſſors who practiſed the pharmaceutic, or ſecond diviſion of medicine according to the claſſification of CELSUS, is not properly tranſlated by the word apothecary. I know, how-

* Hor. Lib. 1. Sat. 2.

ever,

ever, of no other word by which it can he tranſlated: and I have not the leaſt doubt that the antient pharmaceutic profeſſion was preciſely ſimilar to the profeſſion of the apothecary at the preſent hour*. The variety of GREEK terms made uſe of to expreſs this profeſſion, may be applied with equal propriety now as in thoſe earlier ages of medicine. It is probable that all, in thoſe times, did not retain open ſhops, and it is certain all, at this time, do not. The ancient pharmaceutiſts prepared their own medicines, and the modern pharmaceutiſts derive their entire livelihood from this occupation. And if

* "The diviſion of medicine given by CELSUS lays a kind of foundation for our believing that he intended the three profeſſions to which medicine is at preſent confined, thoſe of phyſicians, apothecaries, and ſurgeons; though matters did not then ſtand preciſely on the footing they now do." James's Medicinal Dictionary, Preface, p. 39.

many of them were objectionable on account of their ignorance, or their impositions, as PLINY has positively asserted they were, we are very ready to admit this objection as largely in the present day as it could possibly have been pleaded and enforced in the age of PLINY, or any other historian among the GREEKS and ROMANS, and to lament, at the same time, that we are under the necessity of making such an admission.

Of all the terms employed among the GREEKS and ROMANS to express the retail occupation of the apothecary, the term pharmacopola is the most strong, and appropriate. Yet CICERO has employed this very expression to denote the profession of a man, who, he expressly tells us, gave advice as well as medicines, and who happening accidentally to pass through LARINUM, at the time the

the grandmother of OPPIANICUS was ill, was employed by her ſon to attend her. The name of this man he informs us was LUCIUS CLODIUS; he was born at ANCONA: and was a travelling apothecary, a ſort of mountebank, who was accuſtomed to give his advice and diſpoſe of his medicines in the public forums of the towns through which he paſſed. The father of OPPIANICUS, who had engaged him to attend this lady, was a man of infamous conduct. He appears to have kept in conſtant pay a phyſician who was villain enough to deſtroy, by his preſcriptions, every one who was a ſuppoſed impediment to the fortune or inclinations of his patron. DINEA the mother of OPPIANICUS, appriſed of this circumſtance, ſtrenuouſly refuſed, during her illneſs, both his attendance and his medicines. It was in conſequence hereof that this travelling

pharmacopola was introduced to the lady; and that ſhe conſented to conſult him inſtead. But ſhe gained no advantage by the exchange. The apothecary was not more honeſt nor more virtuous than the phyſician. He took the accuſtomed bribe and the lady fell a ſacrifice to the temptation of her abandoned ſon, and died by the very firſt doſe which was exhibited*.

* Quid? aviam tuam OPPIANICE, DINEAM, cui tu es heres, pater tuus non manifeſtò necavit? ad quam cùm adduxiſſet medicum illum ſuum, jam cognitum, et ſæpe victorem (per quem interfecerat plurimos) mulier exclamat, ſe ab eo nullo modo velle curari, quo curante ſuos omnes perdidiſſet. Tum repentè ACONITANUM quendum L. CLODIUM, PHARMACOPOLAM circumforaneum, qui caſu tum LARINUM veniſſet, aggreditur, et cùm eo H. S. quadringentis, id quod ipſius tabulis tum eſt demonſtrandum, tranſigit. L. CLODIUS, qui properaret, cui fora multa reſtarent, ſimul atque introductus eſt, rem confecit: prima potione mulierem ſuſtulit: neque poſtea LARINI punctum eſt temporis commoratus. Pro. A. Cluent. Orat.

In

In the earlier ages of medicine there were but few public ſchools for initiation into this ſcience, and the private pupils of the moſt able and celebrated phyſicians could be, at the moſt, but few in number, and by no means adequate to the general demand. Four were, however, ſoon created, and all of rival reputation and abilities. At Cos, at Cnidos, at Rhodes, and Agrigentum. It was at the firſt Hippocrates received his education; while Pythagoras and Empedocles were indebted to the latter for their medical knowledge.

Herodotus, indeed, has made mention of two other medical ſeminaries, one at Cyrene, and the other at Crotona; but all we know of theſe is, that, in the iſland where the firſt was eſtabliſhed, there was a temple erected

to ESCULAPIUS; and that the ſecond was the alma mater of DEMOCEDES, who is, perhaps better recognized under the character of a ſpy in PERSIA, than a phyſician in GREECE. The univerſity at ALEXANDRIA however ſoon eclipſed the whole: but even when, at length, this uſeful and magnificent inſtitution was firſt founded, and provided with the proper means of medical improvement, it is not to be imagined that more than a few of the great maſs of practitioners cauld boaſt of having received an education in ſo celebrated a ſeminary of learning. Many, as at the preſent day, had not the means of putting themſelves to the neceſſary expence, and more, from mere indolence, forbore to give themſelves the trouble. Where no teſt of ability is demanded, the idle will ever be ſure to rank with the induſtrious; and, in matters of abſtruſe ſcience,

in

in which the public can never be duly competent to decide, the plauſibility of ignorance, like the affected ſolemnity of the owl, will often paſs current for the poſſeſſion of real knowledge and abilities. Artifice will, at all times, have an advantage over ſenſe and ſolidity; and the man of addreſs will triumph over the unhackneyed philoſopher who deſpiſes it. The abuſes of medicine, and the general ignorance of medical practitioners of which GALEN and PLINY complained in their era, may, therefore, with propriety be complained of at all times. With real regret we confeſs the exiſtence of theſe evils at the preſent moment, and we take a pride in purſuing the only means which can lead to a prevention in future, by eſtabliſhing the neceſſity of public examination, and the teſt of comparative, and individual ability.

But it was not at all times neceſſary for the poſſeſſion of due medical acquiſitions, to have recourſe to the expences of a diſtant and univerſity education. Nor, though much ignorance might, with juſtice, have been attributed to many pharmaceutiſts, were all equally worthy of public contempt. ASCLEPIADES, according to PLINY, gave public lectures at ROME, about a century before the birth of Chriſt, on diſeaſes, pharmacy, and midwifery, at which every claſs of ſtudents attended*. EUDEMUS, who is expreſsly denominated pharmaco-

* He was a native of PRUSA in BITHYNIA, and firſt eſtabliſhed his reputation at ROME by lecturing on Rhetoric. But ſurveying, at length, a fairer field in the confines of medicine, he deſerted oratory for phyſic. Plin. lib. 26, cap. 3. GALEN accuſes him of humoring too much the caprices of his patients, and courting popular applauſe at the expence of his better reaſon and judgment. Adv. Aſclep.

pola

pola by THEOPHRASTUS, is celebrated for his inveſtigation of the properties of drugs: frequently he tried them on his own perſon, and he is reported to have ſwallowed hellebore in large quantities without producing any purgative effect *.

ASCLEPIADES PHARMACION, the third practitioner of this name enumerated by GALEN, and whoſe ſurname points out the immediate branch of the profeſſion in which he engaged, wrote a treatiſe in ten books upon both external and internal medicines. He is particularly diſtinguiſhed, by this laſt writer, for his perſonal dexterity at pharmaceutic compoſition; and on account of a formula for an emplaſter which GALEN had often found advantageous in the cure of fungous ulcers. To which obſervations

* Caſtell. in Vit. Theophraſt.

I may

I may ſubjoin, that, though it be ſtill doubted by ſome critics whether CELSUS were ever perſonally engaged in the practiſe of medicine, yet others, and from authority ſufficiently obvious, have not only believed him to have been actually a practitioner, but, likewiſe, have aſſigned him, as I have already noticed, the pharmaceutic branch as the particular object of his attention.

The diviſion of medicine into three claſſes, as it has already been repreſented, continued, for the moſt part, till the decline and fall of the ROMAN empire. ORIBASIUS appears generally to rank in the pharmaceutic diviſion; though he, by no means, avoided the practiſe of ſurgery on particular occaſions; as is obvious from his having, in this capacity, attended the emperor JULIAN when he had received his mortal wound, by an arrow,

arrow, in his attack upon the PERSIANS near CORDUENE. The practice of ALEXANDER was almoſt entirely confined to dietetic medicine; and that of ÆTIUS and PAULUS to manual operations. The writings of ÆTIUS complain largely of the general uſe of quack medicines and noſtrums; and the immenſe price demanded for thoſe which were fortunate enough to riſe into general repute. DANAUS, he tells us, ſold his collyrium at CONSTANTINOPLE at the aſtoniſhing price of a hundred and twenty numiſmata to each patient, and ſometimes could ſcarcely be prevailed upon to ſell it on any terms; and NICROSTATUS demanded no leſs than two talents for his celebrated iſotheos, or antidote againſt the cholic.* But it is probable that the charges of medical

* Friend Hiſt. Med.

prac-

practitioners in general were at this time very exorbitant, or the emperor VALENTINIAN would not have interfered on this ſubject, as he thought proper to do, and have eſtabliſhed a law by which one phyſician, at leaſt, was deſtined to each of the fourteen ſections into which the city of ROME was divided, who was to be allowed a regular ſalary, and to attend the poor without any expence to them. Every phyſician was obliged, likewiſe, by the ſame law, to accept the voluntary donation of every other patient, when recovered from his diſeaſe, without being allowed to make any expreſs charge, or to take advantage of any promiſes the patient might have raſhly entered into in the midſt of his indiſpoſition*.

As

* Cod. Theodoſ. lib. 13. tit. 3. leg. 8. This mode of aftercharge and payment continued in the empire for many

As the ROMANS derived their knowledge of medicine from the writings of the GREEK phyſicians, ſo likewiſe did the ARABIANS, who adhered, in general, with more pertinacity to the triple diviſion of this ſcience than the former. Medicine was, indeed, almoſt the only literary purſuit allowed and cultivated among the SARACENS and ARABIANS. GAGNIER has undertaken to prove that MAHOMET himſelf was tolerably verſed in medical knowledge; and the doctrine of predeſtination not being, at this time, a tenet of ſuch general belief as it was afterwards, the inherent love of life incited theſe people, in common with all others, to

many centuries. So late as the fifteenth, ERICUS CORDUS, a phyſician of GERMANY of much celebrity in his own age, complained of the reluctance with which the greater part of his patients were accuſtomed to pay on their recovery. Vit. Med. Germ. à Melch. Adam.

enquire

enquire after the beſt means of preſerving it when in danger. Many medical volumes, therefore, and thoſe of the beſt repute, were ſpared in the midſt of the general ravage that deſtroyed the ALEXANDRIAN library, and ruined the univerſity of that celebrated city. And the medical ſchools which were afterwards ſucceſſively eſtabliſhed, in the eighth century, at ANTIOCH, HARRAN, but more eſpecially at BAGDAT, provided a competent number of medical profeſſors and practitioners throughout the whole of the SARACEN dominions. It was at this laſt ſeminary that MESUE, HONANI, and RHAZES, ſtudied phyſic; the ſecond of whom was excommunicated, by the patriarch of ALEXANDRIA, for irreverence to ſome tutelary image; and the third whipped, and expelled from CORDUBA, where he afterwards attained

tained conſiderable reputation, for not being able to reduce his theories of Alchemy to actual practice*.

But it was not to theſe public ſchools alone the young ſtudent was under the neceſſity of applying for medical inſtruction. PAULUS of ÆGINA, had, long before, read lectures on the different branches of the healing art in the city wherein he reſided; and was ſo celebrated for his inſtructions in the article of midwifery, as to obtain the title of Al-ka-vebeli, or obſtetricius†: and public hoſpitals for initiation were by no means uncommon, even at this time, throughout the whole of the SARACEN empire. RASHID erected a

* Vide Appendix B.

† Herbelot in loc.

magnifi-

magnificent one at BAGDAT in the eighth century. There were two of conſiderable extent elevated ſoon afterwards in SPAIN, one at GRENADA, and one at CORDUBA; MESUE was preferred to the inſpection of a third at NISABUR, according to the account of HALY ABBAS; and AVENZOAR expreſsly mentions his having had the care of a fourth himſelf at SEVILLE, in the tenth century*.

This I more particularly take notice of as a proof that the ARABIAN apothecaries, as well as phyſicians and ſurgeons, had nearly ſimilar opportunities for improvement, in theſe earlier periods, to what they enjoy at preſent.

* Lib. Theiſſar Dahalmod.

It is certain, however, that both pharmacy and ſurgery, about the eighth and ninth centuries, began to decline in reputation, and to rank conſiderably beneath the profeſſion of the phyſician; who appears, at this time, to have taken the ſupreme command of every branch of medicine upon himſelf; to have preſcribed to patients, of moſt denominations, the mode of treatment to be adopted, and to have expected from the ſurgeon and apothecary entire acquieſcence in his plan. To them, obſerves Dr. FRIEND, as the ſervatores et miniſtri of the phyſician, the medicus honoratus et nobilis, were only entruſted all manual operations as venæſection, couching of cataracts, the application of cauſtics, and the preparation of medicines*. And a ſhort time afterwards,

* Hiſt. Med. Tom. II.

or

or at fartheſt towards the middle of the eleventh century, ALBUCASIS declares that the art of ſurgery was become nearly extinct, and ſcarcely a veſtige of it to be traced in any place†.

TASSO was fully convinced of the truth of this obſervation; and, in his JERUSALEM DELIVERED, an event which took place about the preſent time, he repreſents the princeſs ERMINIA as being better acquainted than any one elſe, among either theP agan or Chriſtian warriors, with ſurgery and the healing virtues of plants. Among theſe, crocus and dittany bore the higheſt reputation. And it was by a due mixture and application of theſe two herbs, ſhe recovered TANCRED

† Vide ſupr.

when

when dangerously wounded by ARGANTES. This knowledge, he tells us in a former part of the poem, she had acquired, not from chirurgical professors, but from her mother, who had, moreover, instructed her, where medicines should fail in their wonted operations, to add, thereto, the collateral power of incantations and charms.

ella dalla madre apprese
Qual più secreta sia virtù dell 'erbe:
E con quai carmi nelle membra offese
Sani ogni piaga, e'l duol si disacerbe*.

But we still meet with no passages in any of the writings of TASSO or of any of the ARABIAN physicians that can possibly lead us to suppose the existence of any such occupation as

* Canto Sesto.

that

that of the modern druggiſt, and this notwithſtanding the materia medica was now conſiderably enlarged by the introduction of a variety of drugs unknown to the GREEKS, and by the firſt preparations of alchemy. It is probable that the offices of the ſurgeon and apothecary were, at this time, united in one perſon, and it is certain that he was not only a vender and diſpenſer of medicines, but a medical practitioner, though regarded in an inferior point of view, as well as the phyſician. ALBUCASIS, therefore, whoſe writings are principally addreſſed to this claſs of the profeſſion, and who appears to have been of this claſs himſelf, inveighs againſt the practice and attempts of thoſe who had not duly ſtudied anatomy, and the virtues of medicines, and moſt ſtenuouſly recommends

commends a minute attention to both theſe purſuits*.

But whatever diſparity of rank might, in general, have attended the two branches of phyſic and pharmaceutic ſurgery, it was not ſufficient to prevent ſome practitioners from engaging in every branch at the ſame time, or of exchanging one branch for another. HALY-ABBAS informs us, in his ALMALECI, that MESUE, of NISABUR, was the ſon of an apothecary, and was at firſt initiated into his father's occupation, though he afterwards obtained ſuch univerſal celebrity as a phyſician. And AVENZOAR, who reſided at SEVILLE, practiſed, at the ſame time, as his writings teſtify, the three medical rami-

* Wolf. in loc.

 fications

fications of phyſic, pharmacy, and ſurgery; and declares that, "he derived much pleaſure from ſtudying how to mix ſyrups and electuaries; and that he had a ſtrong inclination to be acquainted with the operation of medicines by experience, the manner of extracting their virtues, and of compounding one with another*." He thinks it neceſſary, however, to make ſome apology, for having thus deviated from the general cuſtom of the country, and the example ſet before him by his father and his grandfather.

But the practice of medicine as a ſcience was not at this time confined to the SARACENS. The extenſive ſettlements they had acquired in SPAIN, the

* Theiſſar. Dahalm.

com-

communications which were, of neceſſity, entered into with other EUROPEAN powers in PALESTINE, as well as the literary purſuits yet cultivated at CONSTANTINOPLE, were the means of eſtabliſhing ſome medical ſchools of no ſmall merit and reputation in FRANCE, and the adjoining provinces. Of theſe the inſtitutions at MONTPELIER, NAPLES, and SALERNUM were the principal, eſpecially the latter, which was founded about the end of the eleventh century, by ROBERT of NORMANDY; and is, perhaps, the firſt that eſtabliſhed the form of public examination and admiſſion, and poſſeſſed the power of conferring medical licences and degrees. It recogniſes moſt obviouſly the exiſtence of apothecaries, and enforces the propriety of diſcriminating the three branches of the medical profeſſion from

each other. The phyſician is under the neceſſity of producing teſtimonials that he has been a medical ſtudent for ſeven full years; the ſurgeon that he has attended to anatomy for at leaſt one; and the apothecary is prohibited from charging more than an eſtabliſhed ratio for the medicaments he compounds and employs.

Beſides this celebrated ſeminary for medical knowledge, I do not find there was any other where this claſſification of medicine was regularly adhered to, or even required. The branch of ſurgery was ſometimes practiſed by itſelf, I acknowledge, but the inſtances are by no means frequent; and when it was conjoined to either of the others, inſtead of being united to that of pharmacy, as it appears to have been among the ARABIANS, about the ninth and tenth

tenth centuries, it was rather connected with the practice of the phyſician. The profeſſors of phyſic at PADUA and BOLOGNA were, therefore, generally profeſſors of ſurgery at the ſame time, and read lectures on both ſubjects to their ſtudents. Such was ADRIANUS SPIGELIUS, the firſt medical lecturer in the former univerſity; and ſuch was VOLCHERUS COITER in the latter. CONSTANTIUS VAROLIUS, of BOLOGNA, who flouriſhed about 1570, and AMBROSE PARE, of PARIS, his contemporary, appear to have practiſed ſurgery alone; while at the ſame time MICHAEL SERVETUS, of GENEVA, who is ſuppoſed to have been, in ſome meaſure, acquainted with the circulation of the blood, engaged with equal avidity in every branch. Unluckily, however, both for himſelf and the world at large, the age of SERVETUS

was rather an age of theological than of medical polemics; and writing with ſpirit againſt the doctrine of the Trinity, he drew down upon his head the implacable vengeance of CALVIN, and was publickly burnt for his infidelity.

The medical faſhion and practice of ITALY was propagated throughout all FRANCE. LARENTIUS, who was phyſician to HENRY IV. does not appear, however, to have practiſed ſurgery, or to have been his own compounder of medicines. But ſo late as the beginning of the preſent century, the two former diviſions of the medical ſciences were lectured upon by the ſame profeſſor in the PARIS univerſity; and WINSLOW, who was at this time ſeated in the chair, ſhone with rival abilities as a phyſician, an anatomiſt, and a practical ſurgeon. But his anatomical purſuits

are

are thoſe we are beſt acquainted with at the preſent day; and it is on this account, probably, that neither CASTELLANUS, nor Dr. FREIND has introduced him in their reſpective hiſtories, which relate rather to the ſcience of phyſic as a general profeſſion, than to whatever is ſeparately connected with either pharmacy or ſurgery.

It was at this time, and indeed, throughout the whole of the preceding and ſplendid reign of LOUIS XIV. that the FRENCH prided themſelves on the almoſt excluſive poſſeſſion of chirurgical practitioners.

Les progres de la chirurgerie, obſerves M. DE FRANCHEVILLE, furent ſi rapides et ſi celebres dans ce ſiecle, qu'on venait à PARIS des bouts de L'EUROPE, pour toutes les cures, et pour toutes les operations qui de-

mandaient une dexterité non commune. Non ſeulement il n'y avait gueres d'excellens chirurgiens qu'en FRANCE; mais c'etoit dans ce ſeul pais qu'on fabriquait parfaitement les inſtrumens neceſſaires*. It is ſomewhat ſingular, however, that amidſt all this boaſted poſſeſſion of chirurgical knowledge, the fiſtula in ano ſhould be a diſeaſe in which the FRENCH ſurgeons were fearful of operating, and which had often proved fatal beneath their attempts. The cardinal RICHELIEU fell a ſacrifice to the unſkilfulneſs with which the operation was performed. And when Louis XIV. entruſted himſelf to the care of M. FELIX, his chief ſurgeon, ſo hazardous was this operation deemed, that the hoſpitals were all previouſly ranſacked for thoſe

* Siecle de Louis XIV.

who

who had laboured under the ſame diſeaſe, and innumerable conſultations were held with other ſurgeons of known reputation, to determine on the mode of operating that ſhould appear leaſt excruciating and dangerous. The churches alſo were perpetually crouded, and prayers perpetually offered up throughout the whole kingdom, to avert the fatal termination which was ſo generally apprehended.

This ignorance is the more ſurpriſing, becauſe the mode of operating, both by the ligature and the cautery, had been long before, and repeatedly deſcribed by both GREEK and ARABIAN writers, eſpecially PAULUS and ALBUCASIS. GULIELMUS DE SALICETO had treated profeſſedly on this diſeaſe in the middle of the thirteenth century; and, what is more extraordinary, our

own countryman, JOHN ARDERN, towards the close of the fourteenth.

As to the practice of medicine, during the age of this celebrated prince, the FRENCH writers themselves do not contend that it possessed any merit beyond what was to be traced in the other nations of EUROPE. And when this monarch was attacked by the disease to which he fell a victim, he became dissatisfied with his own physicians, and employed an empyric, who boasted of being able to cure him speedily, but under whose care he expired in a few days.

It was with various success that medicine appears to have been cultivated in GERMANY. P. RAICHSPALT, who was physician at TREVES, towards the end of the twelfth century, was supposed

poſed to poſſeſs very conſiderable merit, and was ſent for expreſsly, from this city, to attend Pope CLEMENT V. whom he was fortunate enough to reſtore to health, after the ſkill of many other phyſicians had been exerted in vain.

Not long afterwards medicine was eſtabliſhed as a ſcience in the univerſity of BASIL. The firſt medical profeſſor was WERNER WOLFLINUS, to whom the univerſity was indebted for its ſyſtem of laws and ordinances. It does not, however, appear to have produced many practitioners of much celebrity. The univerſity at WITTEMBURG was eſtabliſhed not many years after*; which appears to have poſſeſſed more ſcientific fame than that of BASIL.

* A. D. 1495.

Its firſt ſuperior or rector was MARTIN POLYCHIUS. As a phyſician he diſtinguiſhed himſelf, and firſt attracted notice in the memorable controverſy on the ſubject of the venereal diſeaſe, which was now beginning to claim the attention of EUROPEAN phyſicians and ſurgeons; but by being appointed profeſſor of the three faculties of philoſophy, medicine, and theology, he appears to have monopolized too many literary ſituations for the benefit either of the world at large, or of his own credit. He obtained, however, the appellation of Lux Mundi, an honour frequently conferred on men of conſpicuous abilities, and which was, if I be not miſtaken, beſtowed on our own countryman, JOHN OF GADDESDEN.

Pharmacy

Pharmacy and ſurgery were neither of them, at firſt, much cultivated in GERMANY. In general, therefore, the GERMAN apothecaries and ſurgeons were barbers and ignorant impoſtors; though THEODORUS, who was celebrated in the ſixteenth century as a phyſician of diſtinguiſhed abilities, practiſed firſt of all as an apothecary, at DEUX-PONTS on the RHINE.

The age of PARACELSUS was of ſome advantage as to chemical ſcience, but of little or none to the empire at large. For thoſe who were in any degree acquainted with chemiſtry, ſeduouſly retained their knowledge to themſelves; and gave an opportunity hereby to many pretenders and impoſtors, altogether unacquainted with every chemical rudiment, to practiſe as men of extenſive ſcience, upon the ſimplicity of the people. Hence the continual exclama-

exclamations of all the GERMAN writers of the fifteenth and ſixteenth centuries, againſt the ignorant apothecaries, mountebanks, ſurgeons, chemiſts, and paracelſiſts, who were continually deluding the unwary multitude by their ridiculous pretentions. CAMERARIUS, of NORIMBERG, declared that more were deſtroyed by them than by the ſword*; and THEODORUS, whom I have before made mention of, as an apothecary at DEUX-PONTS, endeavoured to clear the city, in which he lived, of all thoſe different peſts of ſociety; and in the language of a moſt pleaſant GERMAN writer, devoted both theſe, and all the old witches, and all the enchanters of whatever kind and pretenſion they might be, to the devil†.

* Vit. Germ. Med. à Melch. Adam. in voc. Camer.
† Id. in Vit. Theod.

It is ſingular, however, that even the beſt informed phyſicians themſelves of this era were addicted to the belief in the pretended powers of witchcraft and incantation, and more eſpecially of aſtrology; however impious they thought the practice of theſe arts might be. Medicus, therefore, obſerved THEODORUS, non conſulet ea, quæ in perniciem vergant animarum. Melius eſt, enim nos ſemper ægrotare, quàm cum Dei contumeliis ſanos eſſe*.

But it is not the GERMANS alone who have been injured by theſe peſts

* Vide ſupr.

It was to the ſame effect ERICUS CORDUS wrote an epigram to his ſon VALERIUS, when engaged in the ſtudy of medicine, in which the following lines occur:

Sed fuge dementum mendax genus aſtrologorum,
Quæque docent vanis frivola ſcripta libris:
Malo quòd indoctus, quàm quod ſis, impius: ergo
Diſce ut doctorem confiteare deum.

Lib. 2.

of

of ſociety. There is ſcarcely a nation in EUROPE, or even in the world, to which, under ſome character or another, they have not tranſmigrated; and happy, indeed, would it have been for this country, and advantageous to the lives of many thouſands, if they had never found a reſidence among ourſelves. Our travelling quacks and mountebanks have almoſt all of them been of GERMAN origin, and independent of the ſpirit of gambling they have excited among the vulgar from their ſtages, the miſchiefs they have occaſioned by their extreme ignorance and impudence, are altogether incalculable.

SECT.

SECT. II.

The Origin of Medicine, and more eſpecially of the Profeſſion of the Apothecary in Great Britain. The different Charters and Acts of Parliament which have ſucceſſively been obtained relative to Medicine; the Knavery and Ignorance of Multitudes of Medical Practitioners, from the univerſal Incompetency of thoſe public Edicts to prevent Abuſes. The Origin of the Occupation of the Druggiſt; and the Source from whence the Apothecary derived his Stock of Drugs anterior to this Period.

HITHERTO I have endeavoured to give a ſhort, and conſequently, imperfect ſketch of the hiſtory of medicine, its firſt origin, its ſubdiviſions, and its

its changes, in all the principal parts of the world where it was chiefly cultivated, excepting in this kingdom. I now proceed, therefore, from the casual documents and anecdotes that are to be collected, to trace its rise and progress among ourselves; still chiefly adhering to the purpose I at first proposed, of pointing out the early existence of the profession of the apothecary, and the line of practice which was generally allotted him.

In GREAT BRITAIN, as in all other countries, the first physicians were pharmaceutists, and compounded their own medicines; and those who were supposed to be possessed of the largest share of general science, were supposed to be the best physicians, and were chiefly resorted to for advice. Hence the study and practice of medicine,

cine, in the earlieſt ages of this kingdom, were confined to the druids; and afterwards, on the eſtabliſhment of the chriſtian religion, to the monks and clergy at large. This, indeed, was the common cuſtom throughout EUROPE in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; till, at length, the duties of the two profeſſions being diſcovered to interfere moſt injuriouſly with each other, every perſon in holy orders was forbidden, by an edict from the papal chair, to purſue the ſcience of medicine any longer.

On the deſtruction of CONSTANTINOPLE, by the irruption of the northern nations, EUROPE, therefore, at large, and this country in particular, were ſupplied with medical aſſiſtants from the ITALIAN and the earlier FRENCH ſchools; which, as I have before

before obſerved, derived their maxims and cuſtoms almoſt entirely from the ARABIAN writers and the SARACEN ſeminaries of medicine*.

With the ITALIAN and FRENCH phyſician were introduced, therefore, into this country, the ITALIAN and FRENCH apothecary and ſurgeon. But, in caſes of extreme importance or danger, and where expence was a matter of no moment, the moſt celebrated profeſſors were perſonally applied to abroad, or induced perſonally to attend in GREAT BRITAIN. ROBERT of NORMANDY, ſon of WILLIAM the Conqueror, applied to the profeſſors at SALERNUM for advice, and reſided

* This ſtudy and initiation at foreign ſchools was enforced by a petition of the parliament to Henry V. in the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Brown's Vindication, &c.

amongſt

amongſt them, in conſequence of a fiſtulous wound he had received in PALESTINE, from a poiſoned arrow. The poiſon, he was told, could only be extracted by ſome perſon's ſucking the wound with frequency and reſolution. The danger ſuch a perſon would riſk, was, in the opinion of the duke, too great and hazardous, and, with much generoſity of mind, he forbade the attempt to be made. But the princeſs of CONSERVANA, whom he had married, and who was alike renowned for her beauty and accompliſhments, diſregarded the reſtriction whenever ſhe had an opportunity in the night, and, by the heroic ſacrifice of her own life, reſtored complete health to her wounded huſband.

The firſt apothecaries we meet with in this country as regularly diſcriminated,

nated, and consistent with the above observation, are J. FALCAND DE LUCA, who, according to REGNER*, publickly vended medicines in 1357; and PIERRE DE MONTPELLIER, who enjoyed the appointment of apothecary to EDWARD III. in 1360†. The appointment of foreigners did not, however, continue long after this period. JOHN DE GADDESDEN had, even before this, been appointed physician to the court, and about three score years afterwards, in the reign of HENRY VI. the council, during his illness, assigned him, out of the many pretenders to physic with which the country abounded, three physicians and two surgeons, whose names are obviously ENGLISH, to administer medicines and advice. These

* Antiq. Bened. in Angl. 167.
† Freind's Hist. Med. Tom. II.

physicians

phyſicians and ſurgeons, or at leaſt ſome of them, were ſuppoſed to be pharmaceutiſts themſelves, and to ſuperintend the compoſition of what medicines were neceſſary for the king, as well as to be preſent at the application of them*.

Theſe, as no apothecaries are expreſsly enumerated, notwithſtanding their general exiſtence throughout the nation, and the houſehold eſtabliſhment

* Rex adverſa valetudine laborans de aſſenſu Conſilii ſui aſſignavit Johannem Arundel, Johannem Saceby et W. Hatcliffe, medicos; Robertum Warren, et Johannem Marſhall, chirurgos, ad libere *miniſtrandum* et *exequendum in et circa perſonam ſuam.* Imprimis, viz. quod licite valeant moderare ſibi diætam ſuam, et quod poſſint *miniſtrare* potiones, ſyrupos, confectiones, laxativas medicinas, clyſteria, ſuppoſitoria, caput purgea, gargariſmata, lealnen, epithemata, fomentationes, embrocationes, capitis raſuram, unctiones, emplaſtra, &c. dantes ſingulis in mandatis quod in *executione præmiſſorum, ſint intendentes.*

they

they had poſſeſſed in the reign of EDWARD III. theſe pharmaceutiſts were probably the ſurgeons; who, in that caſe, combined the ſame branches of the profeſſion, and engaged in the ſame two-fold occupation which is, at this moment, common in every city and town in the country, and not uncommon in LONDON itſelf. I know that the practice of ſurgery was, at this time, frequently diſtinct from that of medicine; and, in conformity to the GERMAN cuſtom, often united to the occupation of the barber; but it was, likewiſe, often connected with the former; and, as at the preſent day, eſpecially amongſt practitioners in the army and navy, lent its name to both branches of the profeſſion; till, at length, in the reign of HENRY VIII. it was expreſsly declared by the legiſlature, that "ſurgery was an eſpecial part of phyſic, and

any

any of the company or fellowſhip of phyſicians were allowed to engage in it*." In the fifteenth century, the ENGLISH ſurgeons, however, muſt have been regarded in a very reſpectable point of view; for PETER LOWE, who flouriſhed about the middle of this century, and wrote a volume on this ſubject†, was appointed Surgeon to the King of FRANCE and NAVARRE.

* Stat. 32. Hen. VIII. cap. 40.

† A copy of this volume is now to be ſeen in the Library of the Medical Society of LONDON; it is entitled, "A Diſcourſe of the whole Art of Chyrurgerie; which is not only profitable for Chyrurgions, but alſo for all Sorts of People, both for *preventing* of *Sickneſs*, and *Recovery of Health*." Accordingly Peter has added, in an Appendix, "The Preſages of DIVINE HIPPOCRATES," more eſpecially thoſe which relate to fevers. It is obvious, therefore, from the title of this book, and more eſpecially from the book itſelf, that the term "Chyrurgion,"

The firſt public act for the regulation of the medical profeſſion was ſome few years anterior to this deciſion*. This act, is entitled "For the appointing of phyſicians and ſurgeons." It complains of both branches of the profeſſion being daily attempted and exerciſed by great multitudes of perſons devoid of all capacity and learning; of men who could not even read, and were, at the ſame time, engaged in the moſt menial occupations; and of women who ventured to introduce ſorcery and witchcraft along with their pretended noſtrums, to the high diſpleaſure of God, the great diſgrace of the faculty, and the grievous

rurgion," was often uſed for *pharmaceutiſt* or *apothecary*; or, at leaſt, that the two branches of the profeſſion were frequently united. It is the ſecond edition of this work which is to be found in the library of the Medical Society, and the date of this edition is 1612.

* Ann. 3. Henry VIII. cap. 11.

damage

damage and deſtruction of the king's liege ſubjects; who, in too many inſtances, could not diſtinguiſh the ſkilful from the unſkilful. It enacts that no perſon within the city of LONDON, or within the circuit of ſeven miles thereof, ſhall take upon himſelf to practiſe either as phyſician or ſurgeon, till he have been examined and approved of by the biſhop of LONDON, or dean of ST. PAUL'S, aſſiſted by four phyſicians or ſurgeons of eſtabliſhed reputation, according to the branch of practice deſigned to be engaged in, under the penalty of £.5 per month for non compliance. And that no perſon beyond theſe precincts of the city ſhould engage in either of the above occupations, under the ſame forfeiture, till he have been examined and approved of by the biſhop of his reſpective dioceſe, or his vicar general, aſſiſted by ſuch perſons of the faculty as

they ſhould think moſt competent for this purpoſe. The fellows of the univerſities of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE being, in all caſes, excepted and provided againſt.

It was about ſeven years after the enacting this ſtatute, in the beginning of the ſixteenth century*, the preſent college of phyſicians was eſtabliſhed by a charter expreſsly granted to them by Henry VIII. Which charter, it is declared, was conſented to, partly in imitation of the ITALIAN and other ſtates, where medical eſtabliſhments had been introduced, and partly at the preſſing ſolicitations of the celebrated LINACRE, and five other phyſicians whoſe names are aſſociated with his. It likewiſe complains of the ill effects reſulting

* About the year 1518.

from

from the practice of ignorant and unqualified pretenders to medicine. So that it is probable the former ſtatute had not been complied with ſo generally as it ought to have been: and it enumerates the privileges veſted in the college in conſequence of its incorporation.

This charter was confirmed four or five years afterwards by a ſpecific act entitled "The Privileges and Authority of Phyſicians in London." It was obtained in the fourteenth year of the reign of Henry VIII.*, and retracts the power of examination and admiſſion to the profeſſion from the hands of the clergy and veſts it in that of the college. The term medicus appears to be employed, in this charter, in its original and extenſive ſignification, as embracing every branch of the profeſſion, both ſurgery and phar-

* A. D. 1522-3.

macy, as well as phyſic. Surgery was indeed, a few years afterwards, as I have already obſerved, declared officially to be "an eſpecial part and member of the ſcience of phyſick*." And if apothecaries be not included in this common term they are not included at all, which is ſcarcely to be credited; becauſe they were, at this time, very general throughout the kingdom, and becauſe phyſicians muſt otherwiſe have been the preparers and compounders of their own medicines, and regarded as ſuch by the privy council. Præterea, ſays the charter, volumus et concedimus pro nobis et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, quantum in nobis eſt, quod per præſidentem, et collegium prædictæ communitatis pro tempore exiſtenti et eorum ſucceſſores, in perpetuum, quatuor, ſingulis annis, per ipſos

* Act 32. Hen. VIII. Sect. 3.

eligantur,

eligantur, qui habeant ſuperviſum et ſcrutinium, correctionem et gubernationem omnium et ſingulorum dictæ civitatis medicorum utentium facultate medicinæ, in eadem civitate, ac aliorum medicorum forinſecorum quorumcunque facultatem illam medicinæ, ALIQUO MODO, frequentantium et utentium, infra eandem civitatem et ſuburbia ejuſdem, ſive intra ſeptem milliaria in circuitu ejuſdem civitatis: ac punitionem eorum pro delictis ſuis in non bene *exequenda*, *facienda*, et *utenda* illa; necnon SUPERVISUM ET SCRUTINIUM OMNIMODARUM MEDICINARUM*.

The act of the thirty-ſecond of the ſame reign entitled "For Phyſicians and their Privilege†, and that of the firſt of Queen MARY touching the Corpora-

* Chart. of Incorp. † Appendix D.

tion of the Phyſicians in LONDON*," in the year 1553, were both however more explicit and appropriate in the language made uſe of to diſcriminate the different branches of the profeſſion. For in theſe the term apothecary expreſsly occurs; and it is declared to be a duty incumbent on the college to viſit their ſhops and to ſcrutinize their drugs and medicines, as alſo to deſtroy thoſe which were found "defective and corrupt." For the more full completion of this valuable end, it is declared lawfnl aud expedient for the wardens of the company of grocers, or one of them, to attend the phyſicians, who might be delegated, in theſe general examinations†.

It

* Appendix E.

† In the former ſtatute the cenſors of the college are prohibited from deſtroying defective drugs, except when ſome

It muſt be obvious, that at this time, there were no ſuch perſons as druggiſts; otherwiſe the appointment would have been veſted in theſe inſtead of being veſted in the grocers. The term druggiſt does not, indeed, occur till nearly a century afterwards, as I ſhall preſently take notice of; at leaſt in any public act: and is then only introduced to complain of the frauds and deceits which were notorious amongſt them, as alſo amongſt "divers apothecaries inhabiting in the ſame cittie (of LONDON):" altogether in conſequence, as is afterwards expreſſed, of a want of neceſſary regulations on this ſubject, and becauſe no teſt of medical ſkill and capacity had been hitherto deviſed, and applied.

ſome ſuch warden was preſent. But in the latter they are allowed the liberty of deſtroying ſuch defective materials, though no warden from the grocer's company attended. Appendix F.

And here the queſtion naturally ariſes, in what manner could apothecaries, at this time, be ſupplied with their drugs if there were no ſuch perſons as druggiſts in exiſtence?

It muſt in anſwer be remarked that, at this time, the foreign articles of medicine were but few in number in compariſon with thoſe of the preſent day. China root, ſarſaparilla, and guaiacum, with a variety of other ſimples of the ſame claſs, were but juſt introduced into general practiſe abroad, and had ſcarcely found their way into this country: camphor, though known to the ARABIANS, was but ſeldom employed, and peruvian bark was not even diſcovered to poſſeſs medical properties till nearly a century afterwards. Chemiſtry was ſcarcely imagined to have any connection with phyſic. PARACELSUS, who firſt introduced

duced the preparations of this art, in any general degree, to the notice of phyſicians, was but juſt born, and VAN HELMONT who, as a chemical practitioner, became in future time, the admiration of the world, did not exiſt till ninety years after the birth of PARACELSUS. And however operoſe ſome of the preparations of the diſpenſary may have been, they were comparatively but few in number, and generally compounded of indigenous plants, or other articles eaſily to be procured. For the foreign drugs that were in uſe the apothecary had recourſe to the wholeſale grocer, who imported for him, therefore, all the roots, gums, balſams, and opium, with every other exotic material he had occaſion for: and he himſelf was the compounder of theſe ingredients into particular forms; or, at leaſt, ſuperintended the compoſition

thereof in his own labaratory. The propriety, therefore, of appointing the wardens of the grocers' company to attend the phyſicians in their public examination of drugs is obvious, and the fact readily accounted for. The importation of foreign drugs was through their medium, and they were ſuppoſed to be converſant in their comparative purity and genuineneſs.

As a further proof that, at this time, and even long after, the apothecary made uſe of the wholeſale grocer as his agent and factotum, it is univerſally known that, originally, he not only vended medicines in his ſhop, but a variety of other articles, in ſome meaſure indeed connected with medicines, but avowedly purchaſed at the grocer's warehouſe, ſuch as ſpices and ſnuff, tobacco, ſugar,

ſugar, and plums*. This habit of intercourſe and connection induced JAMES I. to regard the two occupations either as but one, or as capable of an advantageous and ready union. In conſequence of which, in the fourth year of this reign, he incorporated them under one charter, and allowed them equal privileges. A union which was ſoon afterwards found to be incongruous: and on the expiration of nine years he conſented to diſunite them, and granted the charter under which the company of apothecaries now claim†. By this charter the

* So late as 1704, the act which was then paſſed for regulating the duties on coffee, tea, chocolate, ſpices, and drugs, enumerates the greater part of theſe as articles of the ſame trade. Vide Appendix G.

† The reaſons for this disjunction are expreſsly declared to be, in order that medicines might be better prepared, and in oppoſition to divers perſons who impoſed unwholeſome medicaments on the people. Obſerv. on the Caſe of M. Roſe, Sect. 2.

war-

wardens of the company of grocers, or at leaſt ſome one of them, is ſtill required to attend the delegation of phyſicians in their examination of the ſhops of apothecaries, though the maſter and wardens of this laſt ſociety are obliged to attend likewiſe. In conſequence of the preſent diviſion of trade the attendance of the grocers' company is not, certainly, of any great conſequence, and it has therefore, for many years, been altogether diſpenſed with.

It is after this period, by nearly half a century, that the word druggiſt occurs in any public act. It is to be met with in the new charter intended for the college of phyſicians in the reign of CHARLES II. And, as I have before obſerved, the term is only introduced, along with that of ſome apothecaries, who were the diſgrace of their profeſſion,

feſſion, and who will at all times be too numerous amongſt us whilſt no reſtrictive laws exiſt to prevent their intruſion, to complain of the frauds, deceits, and abuſes which, like thoſe of the preſent day, were ſo flagrant and notorious as to become objects of public reprehenſion, as well as the ſource of much public miſchief. This charter met with very conſiderable oppoſition, and was never confirmed by parliament.

The date of the charter granted to the ſociety of Apothecaries is 1617. I have before remarked, that in this charter, the maſter and wardens of the company of grocers are ſtill required to attend the public inſpection of drugs: which, I think, is a proof that, even at this time, it was the common cuſtom, amongſt apothecaries, to purchaſe their foreign drugs of wholeſale grocers; and,

of

of courſe, that no ſuch perſons as druggiſts were then in exiſtence. Otherwiſe druggiſts of reputation would have been aſſociated, in the inſpection, with phyſicians and apothecaries, inſtead of grocers; and the latter would have been purpoſely omitted as having relinquiſhed the purchaſe and agency of drugs. But it is eaſy to demonſtrate that much later than either of theſe periods the occupation of the druggiſt, either was not engaged in by perſons of any great reſpectability, or was not regarded in any mercantile, or even reſpectable view.

During the reigns of the STUARTS, perſons in every public employment, which was capable of being chartered, and which was not previouſly chartered, applied for incorporation: and the ſums of money, which were offered for ſuch a privilege, generally obtained it. JAMES I. there-

therefore, inſtituted no leſs than fifteen new companies: CHARLES I. about the ſame number: OLIVER CROMWELL, during the protectorſhip, one: CHARLES II. on his re-eſtabliſhment, nine or ten more. The farriers, the porters, the carmen, and the woodmongers, had ſucceſſively obtained charters of incorporation, at ſome of theſe periods: and ſurely had there been any druggiſts, or at leaſt of any reſpectability, they would, in ſome of theſe periods, have been incorporated likewiſe. Even ſo late as the reign of Queen ANNE two companies were admitted to a charter, the Fan-makers in 1709, the Loriners in 1712: but there were no druggiſts to make any application for ſuch a privilege, even at this time, or it would ſurely have been granted them.

Che-

Chemiſtry however, which had for many years been cultivated with ſucceſs by BOYLE, LEMERY, and ſome few other men of abilities in this kingdom, began now to form a cloſe and general connection with the pharmaceutic art; and the daring ſpirit of commerce had explored many new regions, and had imported many new materials for medicine. The occupation of the grocer was, in ſome degree, rendered too complex hereby; and a ſeparation of that part which refers to foreign drugs gradually took place, and united itſelf, perhaps with conſiderable propriety, to the riſing art and ſcience of chemiſtry. The perſons thus ſeparating themſelves from the grocery line, were diſcriminated by the appellation of drug-men and drug-ſters; and, in time, by the preſent name of druggiſts: and they united to themſelves the title of chemiſts, in proportion

tion as they interfered with the purſuits of this laſt art *.

In many parts of EUROPE, even at the preſent hour, however, the occupation of a druggiſt is ſcarcely known; and, if I be rightly informed, the apothecary of thoſe kingdoms and diſtricts, ſtill receives his drugs from the wholeſale grocer of the neighbouring metropolis. LIEGE, which ſupplies with medical materials the whole biſhoprick of that

* The Royal Edict prefixed to the LONDON Pharmacopœias of the preſent century, as well as the commentaries of DR. PEMBERTON and DR. HEALDE, on the different editions of them, are all addreſſed to *apothecaries:* and the word *druggiſt* does not once occur. In the edict, however, "apothecaries and others undertaking to compound medicines," is certainly to be met with. But as the name of druggiſt does not appear, the word "others," in all probability, refers to thoſe perſons who, "being no common ſurgeons," were nevertheleſs allowed to preſcribe and compound medicines for charity, by the ſtatute paſſed in the year 1542. Vide Appendix H.

name,

name, and a conſiderable part of the circle of WESTPHALIA, has but four druggiſts at preſent: GHENT, one of the moſt commercial cities in AUSTRIAN FLANDERS, but ſix; and BRUSSELS, the capital of BRABANT, but five: and about twenty years ſince, this laſt city contained three druggiſts only.

Hence the origin of this new and two-fold occupation: an occupation certainly of modern date, in compariſon of almoſt every occupation at preſent purſued: and which, in its firſt origin, was deſigned to be a warehouſe of ſupply to the apothecary, and, moſt aſſuredly, not of encroachment upon his profeſſion: which depended altogether upon him for countenance and ſupport: and which might be even advantageous to him, and reſpectable to itſelf, while reſtrained within its own definite and proper

per bounds: but which cannot, in any way, overſtep thoſe bounds without being, for the moſt obvious reaſons, expoſed to the ſtrongeſt temptations of uſing the ſame frauds and deceits, which were attributed to it in a public act, on its very firſt attemps at pharmacy; and which has been, with too much juſtice, ſubject to the ſame imputation ever ſince.

It may, perhaps, be enquired whether there be any precedent of remote date, in the hiſtory of the apothecaries of this kingdom, for medical practice as well as pharmaceutic compoſition? To which I can have no heſitation to anſwer in the affirmative.

I have aſſerted that, ſo early as the middle of the fourteenth century, apothecaries were not uncommon in this king-

kingdom, and I have produced an inſtance, in proof hereof at this very time, of the appointment of PIERRE DE MONTPELLIER to the office of apothecary to EDWARD III. In what the duties of this office conſiſted at this period, I am not very ſure: moſt probably in the giving medical advice as well as the vending medical materials; for in the reign of HENRY V. not more than half a century afterwards, we find the parliament complaining to the king that there was no reſtrictive law of any kind on this ſubject; and that men of every denomination pretended at times to the knowledge and practice of medicine; the moſt menial mechanics as well as the moſt ignorant old women. Amidſt this general licence it is not, therefore, to be ſuppoſed that the apothecary alone, the man whoſe employment muſt have rendered him in ſome meaſure acquainted

quainted with the virtues of drugs, and who was accuſtomed to vend them to others, ſhould abſtain from the general practiſe himſelf. And though the word apothecary do not occur, in the order of council, for the appointment of medical attendants during the illneſs of HENRY VI. the ſucceſſor to HENRY V. I have endeavoured to account for this taciturnity, by ſuppoſing them included in the term medicus or chirurgus; more eſpecially as, although the order is ſilent as to the name, it is diffuſe as to the occupation of the apothecary.

It is from the ſame reaſoning I have endeavoured to ſhow that, in the charter granted to the college of phyſicians, in the reign of HENRY VIII. the ſurgeon and apothecary are both included in the common term medicus. Otherwiſe the occupation is deſcribed without the name

name of the occupier. And as the ſame complaints, that the practiſe of medicine had been often uſurped and attempted by the moſt ignorant handicrafts, occur in this charter, which are to be traced in the petition of parliament, in the reign of HENRY V. we cannot imagine that the apothecary would deſert a practice which was attempted by the multitude at large, but which, from his occupation alone, he ought to be better qualified to underſtand than any of his neighbours, even if he had not attended the medical lectures at this time publickly read at the univerſities of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE, which however were frequently attended.

Theſe celebrated univerſities indeed formed the common ſchools, previous to the eſtabliſhment of lectures on phyſic at GRESHAM COLLEGE, and other public in-

inſtitutions in LONDON, at which the apothecary, as well as the phyſician, finiſhed, after his apprenticeſhip, his medical education. And ſo general was the cuſtom of attending them, that "DR. WINTERTON, profeſſor of phyſic in the univerſity of CAMBRIDGE, in a letter to DR. FOX, preſident of the college of phyſicians in 1665, complained of the facility with which incorporation was to be obtained in theſe ſeminaries, by perſons totally unqualified. "I have obſerved, ſays he, and grieved to ſee, ſometimes a miniſter, ſometimes a ſerving man, ſometimes an apothecary, admitted to a licence to practiſe in phyſic, or to be incorporated to a degree, without giving any publique teſtimony of their learning and ſkill in the profeſſion;" and in another part of the ſame letter he ſays, "incorporation was in

an inſtant obtained by a little ſumme of money *."

It is probable, in the reign of HENRY VIII. that the two occupations of the ſurgeon and apothecary were united: and that, as at preſent, he was ſometimes diſtinguiſhed by the one appellation, and ſometimes by the other: for about fifteen years after the confirmation of the charter granted to the college of phyſicians, a bill was introduced and received the royal aſſent, which declares "that perſons, being no common ſurgeons, may adminiſter medicines notwithſtanding the ſtatute," paſſed a few years before. It complains of the enormous charges of ſurgeons in general, in their cure of diſeaſes, and is intended to licence "good old women, and ſuch

* Ferris's General View, &c. p. 91.

other

other honeſt people as would give neighbourly advice for charity and piety, and who did not look for gain thereby." And it limits the diſeaſes in which ſuch perſons, who were no common ſurgeons, were allowed to interfere; which were principally external, except in caſes of ſtone, ſtrangury, and ague*.

In this ſtatute, therefore, the word ſurgeon appears obviouſly to be underſtood as ſynonymous with apothecary; and was thus interpreted by judge RICHARDSON, in his deciſion on this ſtatute, ſo late as 1631, in the caſe of the college of phyſicians againſt JOHN BUTLER. And this being allowed, it follows, that, at the time of the introduction of this bill, the practice of medicine was not only officially permitted

* A. D. 1542-3.

to the apothecary, but ſuppoſed to conſtitute a prime part of his occupation.

In effect, from what occurs at the preſent day, it is obvious that the two departments of ſurgery and pharmacy muſt have been very generally united at this time, in order to obtain any decent ſupport for the practitioner and his family. The apothecary, in his department, was not encroached upon by the druggiſt, as at preſent, it is true; and, in this reſpect, might have been more comfortably ſituated; but as to the ſurgeon, and eſpecially the ſurgeon of a ſmall town, he muſt have found it as impoſſible then, as it is impoſſible now, to have ſupported himſelf by his own limited occupation alone; and, of courſe, muſt have engaged in the practice of pharmacy at the ſame time: In every country, therefore, where theſe

branches

branches of medical ſcience are regularly divided, the government has ever been under the neceſſity of furniſhing ſalaries to the practitioners. Thus, in RUSSIA, both ſurgeons and apothecaries, after having ſubmitted to a ſevere examination by the Chancery of Medicine, are allowed a regular ſtipend from the ſame court; from whence, likewiſe, the apothecary receives gratuitouſly whatever drugs he has occaſion for. And thus again in ITALY, the ſurgeon, who is not allowed to practiſe pharmacy, is ſupported, as is alſo the phyſician in this country, by condottas or rates levied for this purpoſe on the inhabitants of the different towns and villages, and inforced by the magiſtrates of thoſe places.

But to purſue the hiſtory of pharmaceutic practice in this kingdom:

from the reign of HENRY VIII. in which the college firſt obtained their charter, till the reign of JAMES I. in which the ſociety of apothecaries was likewiſe incorporated*, there appears to have been frequent diſputes between the former and all other medical practitioners of every denomination. Proſecutions for ignorant and pernicious practice were perpetual, and, perhaps, founded on juſt grounds; for then, as at preſent, there were no reſtrictive or diſcriminating regulations of any kind; there was no teſt to determine who were really poſſeſt of ability; and no adequate law to preclude thoſe from the profeſſion who were not. The college, however, on the contrary, were accuſed of much illiberality, and of extending its power

* A. D. 1615.

beyond

beyond the bounds which were legally allowed it*.

In the third year of PHILIP and MARY, "the ſurgeons and apothecaries were prohibited the practiſing of phyſick" under either appellation. And, in the fourteenth of ELIZABETH, it was determined, "that the ſurgeons ſhould not give inward medicines in the ſciatica, the French pox, or any kind of ulcer or wound†." From whence it

* With juſt contempt HYGEIA didſt thou ſee,
These mean diſſentions of the faculty;
See ſick'ning phyſic hang her penſive head,
And what was ſcience once, become a trade:
Behold her ſons deſert her myſtic lore,
And ſtudy nature leſs, and lucre more.
DISPENSARY. Cant. 6.

† I have ſearched for theſe acts among the ſtatutes at large, printed in 1786, but I cannot find them. I have inſerted them, however, on the authority of Dr. GOODALL, who has mentioned them in his "Royal College of Phyſicians."

ſeems concluſive that apothecaries had again ventured to practice under the title of ſurgeons, notwithſtanding the reſtriction impoſed upon both parties a few years before; and, it is probable, the neceſſity there was for ſuch a practice, in ſituations where no phyſicians could obtain a livelihood, becauſe few perſons could afford to pay them their accuſtomed fees, induced them to return to this practice, in ſpite of the penalties denounced againſt them.

But theſe prohibitions were not rigorouſly, and, at all times, enforced againſt every one. The College of Phyſicians having a power to admit any perſon, of whom they approved, into their community, occaſionally extended this power, ſoon after their firſt eſtabliſhment, to both ſurgeons and apothecaries; and admitted many, of either

either claſs, who were capable of paſſing a due examination, into the department of permiſſi or licentiates.

Lord MANSFIELD obſerved in the caſe, REX *v.* Dr. ASKEW, the eighth of GEORGE III. that a partial licence was granted to an oculiſt in 1651. "A perſon, ſaid he, may be fit to practiſe in one branch who is not fit to practiſe in another. Licences have alſo been granted to women, and that may not be unreaſonable in particular caſes, as for inſtance, ſuch as Mrs. Stephen's medicine for the ſtone. Partial licences, he continued, have been given for above two hundred years *."

But it was not only into the claſs of licentiates that apothecaries and ſur-

* In 1768. Bur. Rep. Vol. IV. p. 2197. Ferris's General View, &c.

geons were, at times, capable of being admitted, but alſo into that of candidates, and, conſequently, into the fellowſhip of the college. In this caſe they were expected, however, to withdraw themſelves from every other community in which they might have been previouſly engaged, as it was deemed improper to admit any perſon into that ſociety who had pledged his faith to any other*.

The ſtatute of the college which gives this liberal admiſſion, and advances

* Si quis forte *chirurgus*, ant *pharmacopola*, ſe præſidi et cenſoribus examinandum obtulerit, *quo in* CANDIDATORUM *aut permiſſorum numerum reciperetur*, cum ante examinationem, aut ſaltem *ante admiſſionem*, omni jure et obligatione exui volumus, quibus ſuæ communitati prius obſtringebatur. Neque enim æquum aut commodum cenſemus quemquam in ſocietatem noſtram admittere, qui fidem alteri addictam habet.

Stat. Nov. 8. Coll. Reg. Med.

this

this honourable teſtimony of the medical qualifications of, at leaſt, many of the ſurgeons and apothecaries of this kingdom, bears the date of 1647; and it was confirmed a few years afterwards, being periods of about thirty and three ſcore years from the date of the apothecaries' charter. And it diſcovers the exiſtence of a manly and generous union between all the branches of the medical profeſſion. But, unhappily, this union did not laſt long. For on application to CHARLES II. in 1662, on the part of the college, for the allowance of a new charter, with the permiſſion of ſome few official privileges in addition to thoſe already poſſeſt, and which actually received a promiſe of the royal aſſent, the incorporated ſociety of apothecaries oppoſed it, with ſo much dexterity and violence, that it altogether miſcarried,

and was incapable of obtaining the consent of the other two branches of the legislature*.

I confess I cannot see what just grounds there could exist for an opposition so warm and strenuous. The preamble to the charter had undoubtedly expressed the necessity of its renewal from a want of sufficient power in the old charter to restrain "the number of unskillful, illiterate, and unlicenced practizers of physicke that, in and about the cittie of LONDON, hath of later yeares much increased, and att present doe daylie multiplie, *together with the renewed frauds, abuses, and deceits of divers apothecaries, druggists*†, and others

* It is to this cause, at least, that Sir W. BROWNE attributes the failure of this last charter.

Vindication of the Roy. Col. &c. p. 10.

† This, as I have before observed, is the first time that the word druggist occurs in any public act.

inhabiting

inhabiting in the ſame cittie, frequently exerciſed and practiſed in the making, preparing, ordering, and venting of drugs, and other things relating to the ſaid facultie of phyſicke, to the greate diſhonour of this nation, and of the ſage and learned profeſſors of that facultie ſoe noble and neceſſary, and to the detriment of us and our good ſubjects." But it does not declare, nor even intimate, that *all apothecaries* were guilty of frauds, abuſes, and deceits; no the contrary, by introducing the word "divers" a term of much limitation, it allows the greater number of apothecaries to be both capable and honeſt. And far more honourable, indeed, muſt the profeſſion of the apothecary have been then than it is at preſent, if "divers" among them were not of mean and illiterate origin, and too much addicted, together with "divers" drug-

giſts

giſts of the preſent day, to the "frauds, abuſes, and deceits" of which the charter complains.

Be the cauſe of irritation, however, what it might, the incorporated ſociety of apothecaries was much enraged at this attempt of the College of Phyſicians, and, as before obſerved, their oppoſition proved ſucceſsful*.

But the College was not to be treated thus ſeverely without revenge; and, having before aſſerted in their charter that there were *ſome* apothecaries who were a diſgrace to the medical profeſſion, they now enacted a ſtatute to preclude *all* apothecaries whatever, as well as all ſurgeons, under which appellation they might, perhaps, other-

* Appendix I.

wiſe

wiſe have eluded the force of the decree, from being admitted to the honour they had hitherto enjoyed, of becoming candidates for fellowſhip. The preciſe year in which this ſtatute paſſed I know not, but as it was, to a certainty, about this time, there can be little doubt of the cauſe of its forthcoming; and, in fact, the language in which it is conveyed, breathes, in ſome meaſure, a ſpirit of revenge and of wounded pride. "We enact and decree, that no ſurgeon nor apothecary, *nor any other ſuch artificer*, who has ever exerciſed any leſs liberal art, or bound to ſervitude, has ſerved his apprenticeſhip in a ſhop, be admitted into the claſs of candidates or of fellows, leſt, haply, if ſuch be elected into the College, we ſhall not ſufficiently appear to have conſulted either our own dignity, or the honour of the univerſities of this kingdom,

dom, which, nevertheleſs, we ought to regard and ever wiſh to regard with the higheſt veneration*.

This ſtatute has never been repealed. On the contrary, ſome of a ſtill more rigid tendency have ſince been enacted; apothecaries and ſurgeons are now, not only debarred from all hope of becoming candidates or fellows, an honor even refuſed to the licentiate phyſicians at preſent, but are ſeldom able to obtain intereſt enough to be admitted into this latter claſs of the community.

* Statuimus et ordinamus, ut in candidatorum vel ſociorum ordinem, nullus admittatur chirurgus, pharmacopæus *aliuſve aliquis ejuſmodi artifex*, qui aut artem quamcunque minus liberalem unquam exercuerit, aut ad ſervitutem adſtrictus in officina tyrocinium poſuit, ne forte, ſi tales in collegium ita cooptentur, non ſatis conſuluiſſe videamur, aut dignitati noſtræ, aut honori Academiarum noſtratium, quas tamen ſumma veneratione proſequi debemus et ſemper volumus. Stat. Nov. 16. Coll. Reg. Med.

But

But to purſue this ſubject is foreign from my purpoſe. I have endeavoured to prove, and I hope I have demonſtrated, not only that there were no ſuch perſons as druggiſts till within the preſent century, or a ſhort time anterior to it; but that, previous thereto, the concerns of pharmacy were univerſally entruſted to apothecaries; who exiſted in this kingdom as early as the ſcience of medicine exiſted, and were, themſelves, practitioners in common with phyſicians. And that ſo neceſſary was this practice of the apothecary, to the nation at large, more eſpecially in the country, that the interdictions of the legiſlature, in one or two inſtances, obtained either by miſrepreſentation, or the abuſes actually exiſting, were incapable of ſuppreſſing it. The health of the people demanded ſuch a practice,

tice, and the apothecary was obliged to comply.

During the preſent century, and towards the latter end of the laſt, ſeveral additional ſtatutes have likewiſe paſſed, empowering the apothecary to practiſe, reciting his ability as a practitioner, and allowing him ſome excluſive privileges; particularly in the 6th and 7th years of WILLIAM III. the 10th of Queen ANN, and the 9th of GEORGE I. in which he is exempted from ſerving the offices of conſtable, and ſcavenger, as well as all other pariſh and ward offices; as alſo of ſerving upon juries. The laſt of theſe ſtatutes renders theſe exemptions perpetual*.

I cannot, however, cloſe this ſection without obſerving that this diſpute be-

* Appendix K.

tween

tween the phyſicians and the apothecaries in this kingdom, was not diſſimilar to that conducted with much aſperity between the phyſicians and ſurgeons of FRANCE, on the firſt eſtabliſhment of the academy of the latter, in the beginning of the preſent century. Its origin is related with ſo much ſpirit and pleaſantry, by a FRENCH critic of that period, that I cannot avoid inſerting it in this place.

Il y a quelques années, ſays he, que les chirurgiens propoſerent d'etablir une Academie de Chirurgerie; cet etabliſſement cauſa de l'ombrage à la Faculté de Medicine. Elle craignoit que les ouvrages, qui emaneroient de cette Academie, n'efacaſſent, par leur clarté, et par leur preciſion, ceux des medicins, dont l'obſcurité et l'incertitude rebutoient, depuis long tems, des lectures, qui,

qui, en matiere de ſcience, rejettent tout ce qui n'eſt point evident. Ils ſ'opoſerent de toute leur force, mais en vain; les chirurgiens obtinrent ce qu'ils vouloient.

Ce fut là le ſignal d'une guerre qui dure encore. On s'imagine, peut-etre, qu'entre gens accoutomés au ſang, il y en eu beaucoup de repandu: non, on ne s'eſt juſqu'ici eſcrimé que de la plume. Mais quelles plumes? Entr'autres ecrits les medicins firent imprimer, il y a dix huit mois, une queſtion de medicine, ou l'on agitoit, ſi la cure des maladies veneriennes pouvoient etre confiée aux chirurgiens? Je n'oſe pas dire que la politeſſe y etoit entierement violée. Le lecteur ne voudroit pas m'en croire. Quelle apparence, en effet, que l'auteur, qui reprochoit à ſes adverſaires leur groſſiereté et leur peu d'education, eut voulu

voulu donner lieu au public de croire qu'il etoit dans le meme cas*. Par zele ſeulement pour les interets de la ſocieté il s'addreſſoit aux magiſtrats, et les prioit d'interpoſer leur autorité pour interdire, dans la ſuite, aux chirurgiens, la cure de ces maladies. Quelle attention dans un medicin! il eſt facheux que l'uſage des bains ſoit echapé à ſon zele dans les catalogues des remedes qu'il indiquoit au public pour la gueriſon des maladies veneriennes. Cette omiſſion a donné occaſion aux reflexions critiques des quelques genies malins, qui ſe ſont imaginés que l'auteur les avoit paſſés ſous ſilence, parce que nous en etions redevables aux chirurgiens.

Tantæ ne animis medicalibus iræ†?"

* The writer here referred to, is M. le Docteur Santeul, who had juſt publiſhed a theſis on this ſubject, Utrum chirurgia ſit medicinâ certior? and which, of courſe, he replied to in the negative.

† Reflexions ſur les Ouvrage de Literature. Tom. I.

SECT. III.

The Neceſſity of the Profeſſion of the Apothecary to the Nation at large, and the Evils to which both are, at preſent, equally expoſed. The Origin of the General Pharmaceutic Aſſociation to inveſtigate theſe Evils; its extenſive Correſpondence with Practitioners in all Parts of the Kingdom; and a brief Account of its ultimate Deſign, and of what it has already atchieved.

HEALTH is, perhaps, the greateſt bleſſing human nature can enjoy; and life is only valuable in proportion to the degree, in which that health is poſſeſt. Of what infinite conſequence is it, then, to the nation at large, that the profeſſion to whom its general

general health is entruſted, ſhould, in all its branches, be compoſed of men of education, ability, and integrity; ſecured from error, as far as the human mind is capable of being ſecured, by a previous and proper courſe of medical initiation and ſtudy; and raiſed above all temptation to fraud and chicanery, by reſpectability of perſonal character, and a ſituation of decent and eaſy ſupport.

With reſpect to phyſicians of reputation, this, in moſt inſtances, holds true. They cannot, in general, enter upon any *regular* and reſpectable line of medical practice, without ſubmitting to ſome kind of examination, and exhibiting ſome proof of capacity and liberal education*. But ſuch a preparation

* It is poſſible to obtain diplomas from *ſeveral* colleges in SCOTLAND, as well as on the continent, by certificates alone,

paration for practice cannot be obtained without conſiderable expence; nor can ſuch expence be afforded, excepting by families of affluence, or, at leaſt, of reputable mediocrity. In general, therefore, the families of all reſpectable phyſicians of this country are poſſeſt of ſome property, their own characters honourable, and, if their incomes be not large, on firſt engaging in practice, they draw from their friends, or their own patrimony, an additional ſupport, till that practice becomes ſufficient.

alone, without perſonal attendance and examination; but the ſmall degree of general eſtimation in which ſuch diplomas are held, prevents their forming any competition with the numbers that are obtained from the ENGLISH Univerſities and from EDINBURGH; at which three cities about twice the number of ſtudents graduate for practice in this kingdom, to thoſe that graduate in every other part of the world beſides. Though at many of the foreign univerſities the examination is ſufficiently ſtrict and ſevere, particularly at LOUVAINE, UTRECHT, and LEYDEN.

This

This is far from being univerſally, or even equally, true with reſpect to apothecaries; among whom there are no reſtrictive regulations to keep at a due diſtance the ignorant and the unſkilful, no form of public examination, or teſt of medical ability. That among theſe there are many practitioners poſſeſt of extenſive general information, ſound ſcientific knowledge, and unimpeached reſpectability of character, muſt be admitted; and I triumph, at this moment, in the recollection of many ſuch, who have extended to me their confidence and friendſhip. But many are there to be met with who have no ſuch pretenſions to merit; who are equally a diſgrace to the profeſſion, and the bane of ſociety at large. And what is ſtill worſe, and moſt of all to be lamented by the community, the number of theſe laſt is daily increaſing,

while the more worthy and the intelligent are, in the ſame proportion, withdrawing themſelves from the profeſſion.

This, I have ſaid, is to be lamented by the community; and little need be added to prove it a national detriment.

Of all the branches of the medical profeſſion, that of the apothecary, without doubt, is of moſt conſequence to the health of the nation at large. In this city, where a phyſician attends one patient, an apothecary attends twenty; and, in the country, this proportion is more than doubled. "He is," ſays a celebrated writer, "the phyſician to the poor at all times, and to the rich whenever the diſeaſe is without danger*." In the line of mediocrity, phyſicians are ſeldom conſulted, on account of the attendant expence. And huts, hovels,

* Smith's Health of Nations.

and

and cottages, which, throughout the whole country, but more eſpecially in large manufacturing towns, incloſe ſuch infinite numbers of human beings, and feed, with perpetual pabulum, diſeaſes of the moſt infectious and fatal tendency, compoſe almoſt excluſively the walk of the apothecary. To him is likewiſe allotted the care of nearly all priſons and poor-houſes; he only has the opportunity of ſtifling contagion in its birth, and of preſerving the nation from its deleterious effects.

Whenever, therefore, the profeſſion of the apothecary becomes ſo deficient in reſpectability, and lucrative advantage as to render it an ineligible occupation for men of character and property, the health of the nation muſt inevitably ſuffer, and the ſcience of medicine be perverted.

That this is too much the caſe at the preſent moment, and that it is daily becoming more ſo, no man, who is, in the leaſt, acquainted with the profeſſion, can entertain the leaſt doubt. And there are two grand cauſes to which it may be attributed.

Firſt, The encroachment which chemiſts and druggiſts have, of late years, made on the profeſſion of the apothecary, by vending pharmaceutic preparations, and compounding the preſcriptions of phyſicians. And

Secondly, The want of a competent juriſdiction in the profeſſion itſelf, to regulate its practice, and to reſtrain ignorant and unqualified perſons from practiſing at all.

It

It was to obtain redreſs againſt theſe evils, and to reſtore to the profeſſion a dignity and a purity which it ought ever to poſſeſs, that early in the ſpring of laſt year, ſeveral reſpectable apothecaries formed themſelves into a ſociety. They inveſtigated theſe evils minutely, entered into an extenſive correſpondence with reſpectable members of their own profeſſion, in almoſt every part of ENGLAND and WALES, and endeavoured, in every way, to excite a ſpirit of univerſal enquiry and reformation. And having collected a volume of facts, demonſtrative of the infinite injury reſulting to ſociety at large, as well as to the profeſſion in particular, from the toleration of theſe abuſes, on the 17th of June, 1794, a general meeting of the apothecaries of this kingdom was held at the Crown and Anchor, in the

STRAND, at which about two hundred practitioners attended.

The purport of this meeting was judiciously opened by Mr. CHAMBERLAINE, of AYLESBURY-STREET; the minutes and transactions of the society were then read; and it was next stated, in support of the observations already made, "that this unjust, and innovating usurpation of druggists, together with the intrusion of uneducated and unskilful persons into professional practice, called loudly for some speedy and effective act on our own part; an act that should at once destroy the obtrusions complained of, and restore credit and respectability to the profession. And this, indeed, whether we suffered ourselves to be influenced by narrower and personal, or by broader and patriotic considerations: For the evils we were called

called upon to oppoſe affected the nation at large, as much, and as deeply, as any individual practitioner.

" If we regard perſonal views, it was ſtated to be a fact, the proof of which was in the tables of calculation then preſent, that were the aggregate ſums obtained by this infringement of the druggiſts, and divided amongſt the druggiſts of this metropolis, a body of men unknown to the world till about the end of the laſt century, unauthoriſed by any public charter, and almoſt undeſcribed by any public act; were theſe ſums to be equally divided, as they ought to be divided, amongſt the apothecaries of this metropolis, every one would have an addition of nearly £. 200 a year to his preſent income. But this evil, it appeared, was not confined to the capital, though the apothecaries of

London ſuffer more largely from its effects, than their brethren in other ſituations. It was declared to be a morbific infection; that it began at the capital, as at a central point, but diffuſed its deadly breath from thence to all the larger cities and towns throughout the kingdom. Nor ſtopped the contagion here. From the larger cities and towns, it was beheld propagating itſelf to the ſmaller cities and towns, till, at length, ſo general was the prevalence of the diſeaſe, there was ſcarcely to be found a village or a hamlet, without a village or a hamlet druggiſt. If the ſale of medicines and the giving of advice was not here ſufficient to ſupport the vender, he added to his own occupation, the ſale of mops, brooms, bacon, and butter, and a thouſand ſuch articles beſides. The unanimity of country practitioners could not, therefore,

therefore, be doubted of, in the adoption of any meaſures that might be deviſed to deſtroy this ruinous and ungenerous traffic of the druggiſt.

" There might be, perhaps, ſome practitioners ſo happily ſituated, at preſent, as to be out of the reach of the druggiſt's influence, and unmoleſted by his ungenerous monopoly. But even ſuch practitioners ought not to think themſelves unintereſted in the common cauſe. Such practitioners might have children; they might have ſons; ſons that *muſt* be educated, for, in general, there was ſuch a neceſſity, into the profeſſion of their forefathers. And when they had, at length, completed their medical education, who could determine that they would not fix themſelves in the very center of ſome large druggiſt's vortex? and be ſubject to all the evils,

in a ten-fold degree, that we were then called upon to contemplate, to deprecate, and to oppoſe?

" It was from this uſurpation of druggiſts, added to the ſecond evil we were convened to encounter, the obtruſion of unſkilful and illiterate men into the profeſſion, that the profeſſion loſt, and was daily loſing, its credit and reſpectability; and that an ungenerous and ungentleman-like competition was continually occurring between man and man. Where, it was demanded, is the article employed in common life, but has had a high advance upon its ſale within the laſt twenty years? Taxes have been doubled, houſe-rent has been doubled, the price of almoſt every material has been doubled, but the price of medicines has not only not been doubled,

but,

but, from the operation of the cauſes before adverted to, has had ſcarcely any advance in any place; and, in many country ſituations, the charge for medicines, and more eſpecially the charge for ſurgical operations, has had a moſt ſhameful and a moſt fatal reduction indeed.

" Hence comes it to paſs, that but few reſpectable families will conſent, at the preſent day, to educate their ſons under our care into our profeſſion. They foreſee the difficulties they will have to encounter, and they wiſely keep aloof from thoſe difficulties. And that while an attorney can caſily procure a premium of three, four, or five hundred pounds with every clerk he admits into his office, an apothecary, whoſe profeſſion is of infinitely more conſequence, is, in general, obliged to accept a much

ſmaller ſum---a ſum, ſaid the ſpeaker, which ſhall not injure by its ſtatement the feelings of any one preſent, but which every one knows will, in almoſt every inſtance, bear no compariſon whatever. Hence is it, that the poverty of the profeſſion is become ſo conſpicuous; and that we are continually hearing of bankruptcies among our brethren: and hence, too, proceeds it that a practitioner, inſtead of being able, as he ought to be able, and as gentlemen in other occupations leſs hazardous, and leſs laborious, are able, to amaſs a fund againſt future exigencies, againſt the advance of age, and againſt thoſe accidents to which all are liable, but to which the profeſſion of the apothecary is particularly expoſing him every hour of his life, and which may prelude him for ever from rendering any farther aſſiſtance to his wife and family; inſtead

of

of being able to do this, he is neceſſitated, in too many inſtances, to entruſt himſelf, his concerns, his widow, and his family, to charitable and benevolent inſtitutions: inſtitutions never thought of twenty years ago; and which, while they do credit to the ſoundneſs of the judgment, and the goodneſs of the heart of the different members of thoſe inſtitutions, demonſtrate, at the ſame time, in the moſt feeling, and the moſt forcible language, the poverty of the members themſelves*.

"But it is not by *perſonal* views in a concern of ſuch magnitude, we ought alone to be actuated. It has already been aſſerted it is a *national* as well as a *profeſſional* abuſe we are contending againſt: an aſſertion well worthy of elu-

* Appendix L.

cidation;

cidation; becauſe, on ſuch elucidation, much of our future operations, and, moſt aſſuredly, much of the ſucceſs of thoſe operations muſt ultimately depend. And, firſt, as to druggiſts:

"Theſe, as well as all other warehouſemen, engaged in the purchaſe of articles by the groſs, muſt find thoſe articles, when purchaſed, poſſeſt of different qualities. With reſpect to druggiſts it is ſo, in the purchaſe of rhubarb, Peruvian bark, gum Arabic, and, in effect, every foreign article beſides. Hence an aſſortment becomes neceſſary. From this aſſortment the prime drugs only can be vended to the apothecary; for the apothecary is, at all times, or at all times ought to be, a judge of their comparative quality. Bnt what is to be done with the inferior aſſortments? To throw them away would be to deſtry all profit accruing

cruing from the traffic with the apothecary; and to retain them, and not uſe them, would be preciſely the ſame thing. And here the public, who can be no judge of the quality of his materials, offers to the heſitating druggiſt a moſt ready, a moſt convenient, and a moſt welcome market indeed: and it is the only market that is offered to the druggiſt at all. But if, in the uſe of ſimple articles, he be expoſed to ſuch temptations, how may he hope to eſcape from the power of thoſe ſtronger temptations which reſult from the preparation of compound medicaments, and the extemporaneous preſcriptions of phyſicians; in which ſuccedaneums of inferior value are conſtantly ſoliciting his attention, and adulteration is never to be detected without ſevere labour and analyſis. A druggiſt may, therefore, be a very honeſt man in the main, but he may have

a large

a large ſtock of indifferent materials on his hands; and, in ſpite of his honeſty, the temptation to diſpoſe of theſe materials to the public, will often be too ſtrong to be reſiſted.

" A druggiſt, therefore, reaſoning à priori, muſt be under the neceſſity of vending indifferent drugs to the public, and of employing them in the compoſition of medical preſcriptions. CICERO, indeed, informs us it was a maxim of ROMAN morality, that " in vendendis vitia diſcerentur, quæ nota eſſent venditori*." But if this maxim were to be enforced among modern druggiſts, few, indeed, would be the preſcriptions they would be able to compound at all.

" Yet allowing the neceſſity of employing in different drugs in the compoſition of

* De Offic. lib. 3.

medical

medical prescriptions, there is no necessity for compounding those prescriptions, in a careless and unscientific manner, and with wrong materials; or for sending wrong directions, or no directions at all with the prescriptions when compounded. But even these are facts which occur every day, and the papers at this time on the table, are sufficient, it was asserted, to substantiate the charge. They complain of some druggists who have made fatal mistakes in their compositions; of others who, from want of a classical education, and an incapacity of translating the directions appended to their prescriptions, have been under the necessity of disturbing apothecaries in the middle of the night to translate for them; and, lastly, of others who, from boldly adventuring to interpret, have given wrong directions; or who not daring to interpret, have dis-

diſpenſed their medicines without any directions at all: leaving the bewildered patient to chance, or the ſurmiſe of his own imagination; whilſt, not knowing the omiſſion to be the druggiſt's, he is condemning, at the ſame time, the phyſician for performing his duty but by halves.

"The compoſition of preſcriptions, and the vending of pharmaceutic preparations by druggiſts, comprize, then, a national evil, and of no ſmall magnitude. The materials they make uſe of muſt, in general, be mere offals and the refuſe of better drugs; and, from want of claſſical knowledge, perpetual errors, and negligencies, are diſcovered in their combination. The credit of the phyſician is endangered; and the patient, perhaps, is deſtroyed.

But

But if this be a ſource of national abuſe and deceit, what infinite injury muſt reſult from the ſtill bolder practice ſuch men often allow themſelves, of adding pretended medical advice to erroneous medical compoſitions? Men who have never enjoyed any other medical education than what their own counters have afforded: and who can know nothing of the powers of diſeaſes, or of the powers of medicines to remove thoſe diſeaſes when preſent? To attempt to demonſtrate this to be a public evil, and one that calls loudly for public redreſs, is altogether to loſe time: it is to light up the ſun at noon day with a candle. And the ſecond abuſe which reſults to the people at large, from the preſent ſtate of pharmacy, was, therefore, adverted to; and which conſiſts in the obtruſion into the profeſſion of ignorant and unſkilful pretenders; men whoſe origin, per-

perhaps, were that origin to be traced, would diſcover them to have been the porters of hoſpitals, or the counterboys of quondam maſters*.

"It is not altogether ſufficient to complete the medical character to know that jalap will purge, that ipecacuanha will vomit, that antimonials will ſweat, or that cantharides will excite a bliſter; and yet, were the qualifications to be minutely ſcrutinized of many who pretend to practiſe, they would not, perhaps, amount to much more than theſe. When men of this deſcription, with unparallelled audacity, preſume to invade the literary profeſſion of phyſic---

* Qui enim olim vix famulitio digni a nobis habebantur, nunc non modo præcipua nobis commoda medicamentorum præparatione, ac diſtributione præripere, ſed et ipſi praxi clinicæ audacter ſeſe immiſcere moliuntur. Goelicke Reg. Prof. Hiſt. Med. Sect. 158.

medi-

medicines in the hands of ſuch muſt become poiſons; and the lancet a more dangerous weapon than the unſheathed ſword. Can we wonder at the diſcredit into which the pharmaceutic profeſſion is daily falling, not having, as it certainly has not, any court of competent juriſdiction to reſtrain ſuch public nuiſances? Can we be ſurpriſed at the complaints, which are daily echoed, and re-echoed from his majeſty's army and navy, of the general unſkilfulneſs of thoſe appointed to ſuperintend in medical concerns?

"Theſe, then, are the two grand evils, which, as profeſſional men, and men who have the good of their country at heart, we are now called upon, by this public meeting, to obviate.

But

" But what plan is to be propoſed as the means of obviating them? This is an important queſtion, and it deſerves much conſideration. There are two, however, that have been ſuggeſted. The firſt is a general aſſociation of all the apothecaries of GREAT BRITAIN engaging themſelves, by articles to each other, to deal with ſuch druggiſts only who ſhall immediately conſent to relinquiſh the compoſition of all medical preſcriptions, and to retain to themſelves their wholeſale occupation alone: and to receive no apprentice, and employ no aſſiſtant, but who has had a claſſical education. And the ſecond, the formation of a general committee to act in the name of the whole, and to endeavour to obtain the neceſſary reformation by an application to parliament.

As

" As to the firſt, it was obſerved, that aſſociations, excepting for temporary purpoſes alone, ſeldom anſwer the end for which they are deſigned; and moſt probably, in the preſent inſtance, would be altogether incompetent. There are two difficulties more eſpecially ſuch an aſſociation would have to encounter--- want of univerſality, and want of coercion. Can we imagine that all the apothecaries of this kingdom would ſo cordially unite into one bond as would be indiſpenſably neceſſary? And that they would pledge themſelves to withdraw all connection, and that for ever, from all druggiſts who would not conſent to reſign their unjuſt pretenſions to compound pharmacy? Can we imagine they would thus univerſally pledge themſelves not to admit into their ſhops, or diſpenſaries, any apprentice, or any aſſiſtant who had not received a preparatory

educa-

education? This is ſcarcely to be ſuppoſed. Let it however be conceived that an aſſociation thus extraordinary and univerſal is completed. That aſſociation can only be ſupported by laws; thoſe laws muſt be guarded by penalties; thoſe penalties, when the law is enfringed upon, muſt be enforced, and the forfeited ſums collected. For many obvious reaſons however, it would often be difficult, if not impoſſible to collect the amount of the penalties incurred. In this caſe the only remaining puniſhment is expulſion: a puniſhment, perhaps, the delinquent would often pay but little regard to: but which, whenever enforced, muſt diminiſh the ſtrength, and, in ſome degree, by leſſening its number, ſap the foundation of the ſociety itſelf. For theſe reaſons, therefore, want of univerſality, and want of coercion, ſuch an aſſociation muſt

muſt be incompetent to the purpoſes it aims at.

" The difficulties likely to be met with in attempting to obtain an act of parliament, were next examined. They were ſtated to be two—expence and oppoſition. But it was ſaid that the firſt, if duly conſidered, was an idle objection. For were all apothecaries to engage zealouſly in the common cauſe, it could not put them to the expence of half a crown each. But, even, without a complete unanimity, it would not, in all probability, coſt thoſe who were anxious to unite, more than a guinea each. And as to oppoſition we had no reaſon to expect it, in any violent degree, but from the druggiſts themſelves. Nor were all druggiſts inimical to the meditated reform: many had already expreſſed their good wiſhes towards it;

and ſome had even contributed pecuniary aſſiſtance to carry it into execution. But if druggiſts are to oppoſe us, who are to oppoſe druggiſts? Druggiſts, like all others engaged in commercial tranſactions, are dependent men. On whom are druggiſts dependent? On apothecaries—on ourſelves. Let us, then, make that uſe of this dependance which it behoves us to make. Let us univerſally, and individually write to every druggiſt with whom we traffic, and inform him, that if he value the connection between us, we inſiſt upon it, on the continuance of that connection, that he with-hold from us all perſonal oppoſition whatſoever. Let us publiſh to all druggiſts that if, deaf to their own intereſts as well as ours, they ſhould nevertheleſs perſiſt in oppoſing us—ſhould they fruſtrate our intentions, and wrench, if it were poſſible, the very ſtatute from our hands

hands after we had obtained it, and tear it into a thouſand tatters; we have ſtill left the former reſource of aſſociating ourſelves againſt ſuch opponents; we have ſtill left the power of creating one common fund; of eſtabliſhing one general magazine; of ſupplying ourſelves from ſuch magazine, and thus, by a ſingle act, of ruining their whole trade, and deſtroying their exiſtence as a commercial community.

" Oppoſition, then, we may meet with, but let us not be afraid of oppoſition. Actuated, as we are, by perſonal juſtice, and the good of our country, let ſuch oppoſition be rather a ſtimulus to additional exertions. Let it not be ſaid of us that, after having entered the field of conteſt, with weak and timid puſillanimity, we withdrew therefrom without atchieving the objects we had in view: let it rather be declared that we

fought every inch of ground; that we oppoſed hoſt to hoſt, and perſeverance to perſeverance; and that, as our difficulties encreaſed around us, our ſpirit likewiſe encreaſed in proportion to thoſe difficulties. Conteſt muſt precede victory: but unanimity and reſolution will enſure it to us; and that muſt be a prize of but little value indeed, which is to be obtained by ſmall pains and exertions*."

It was then propoſed "that the perſons preſent ſhould form themſelves into a ſociety, under the title of THE GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN; and that all other regularly educated practitioners, throughout

* It may be remembered by many, that the ſubſtance of a ſpeech is here related, which was delivered by the author at the *Crown and Anchor*, at the above meeting; and which he is enabled to give the more fully, from the ſhort hand notes of a friend who did him the honour to write after him.

the

the kingdom, be invited to aſſociate in the common cauſe.

" That all the reſpective members of the ASSOCIATION pledge themſelves to each other, not to forſake the purpoſe they hereby endeavour to attain, if at all attainable, till they have carried ſuch purpoſe into execution: and that each enter his name, as he becomes a member, into a book allotted for this expreſs intention.

" That a committee be ſelected from the whole body of members preſent, for the purpoſe of minutely examining the difficulties which may occaſionally ariſe; and to urge by letters, containing a candid ſtatement of the grievances endured, every regularly educated practitioner in pharmacy throughout the kingdom.

"That this committee do not consist of a smaller number than twenty: that it be chosen by nomination and majority of votes; that it have regular meetings once a month, or as much oftener as may be deemed convenient, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, (the first meeting to be held on the twenty-eighth day of this present month, July;) that it be open to the admission of every member of the ASSOCIATION; and be at liberty to summons general meetings, and to report progress whenever it may seem expedient so to do.

"That it be recommended to the committee to take into their immediate consideration, and to adopt such means as may appear best calculated to obtain the intention of this institution, and to inform the ASSOCIATION thereof from time to time.

That

" That as expences muſt neceſſarily, hereby, be incurred, every one who enters his name, or gives leave to have his name entered, as a member, at the time of ſuch entrance, or as ſoon after as may be, do depoſit into the hands of the treaſurer, or the collector appointed by the ASSOCIATION, the ſum of one guinea; and be, hereby, ſuppoſed to conſent to advance his proportional quota of future expence, as long as he may continue a member; ſhould it ever become neceſſary to make any farther application to him: but that no ſubſcription be attempted in future, otherwiſe than by the expreſs reſolution of a general meeting of the ASSOCIATION."

Theſe reſolutions propoſed at this firſt General Meeting, were fully perfected and confirmed at a ſecond General Meeting, held at the ſame place, on July 31,

following. In consequence of which, the committee then appointed have been sedulously engaged, and still continue to be engaged, by special meetings of select committees, and by public meetings of the whole body of the committee, holden, as resolved upon, twice every month, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, to carry the important work thus devolved upon them into execution*.

The extent of their correspondence is only bounded by the extent of the kingdom; and the materials collected most voluminous and immense. The ardor evinced by practitioners, in every part of the country, to forward the common

* It does not appear necessary to mention the names of the committee in this publication, as they have been already enumerated in a circular letter from the committee itself, and are in the hands of almost every practitioner.

cause,

cauſe, is uniform and univerſal; and ſcarcely a poſt arrived in LONDON for the firſt two months, after the eſtabliſhment of the ASSOCIATION, without new ſtatements, from perſonal knowledge, of increaſing evils accruing either to the public or to the profeſſion, from the toleration of the abuſes complained of.

There is not, perhaps, a ſingle druggiſt in the whole kingdom who compounds his different preparations, in all reſpects conſiſtently with the college diſpenſatory, but the druggiſts at MANCHESTER appear to excel all others in ſuch nefarious ingenuity, and to extend their endeavours to ſave trouble and expence, to articles in which it could be ſcarcely imagined ſuch endeavours were neceſſary. An ingenious correſpondent, who dates from this town, has obliged the committee with a copy of ſome few of theſe elegant ſuccedanea, and they will

be found in the appendix as below*. From a letter addreſſed by another correſpondent, it appears that about ten or twelve years ſince, there were but two druggiſts in this town, though, at preſent, there are no leſs than eight; of whom three have commenced buſineſs within the courſe of the laſt twelve months†. But pharmacy alone compriſes

* Appendix M.

† A letter from CHESTER informs us there are no leſs than ſeven in that city; and at CHICHESTER we are informed, by another correſpondent, there are no leſs than five.

Foreigners may well be ſurpriſed, therefore, as many with whom I have converſed are, at the number of druggiſts to be found in GREAT BRITAIN, and their comparative proportion with medical practitioners.

I have before obſerved, that at LIEGE there are four druggiſts only; at GHENT ſix, and at BRUSSELS five. The proportion with medical practitioners is as follows:

Drug-

prises too small a field for these men of letters and ambition: "they prescribe, says the writer, whenever applied to, though totally ignorant of medical science, and even pretend to reduce fractures*."

But

	Druggists.	Surgeons.	Apothecaries.
Liege	4	30	28
Ghent	6	35	22
Brussels	5	74	40

How strangely reversed in this proportion, in the three cities of this kingdom, to which I have just adverted.

	Druggists.	Surgeons.	Surgeon-apothecaries.
Chester	7	4	7
Manchester	8	9	12
Chichester	5	3	6

This comparison between medical practice abroad, and in GREAT BRITAIN, might be conducted with ease, on a much larger scale; but I forbear augmenting it, because the proportion would be nearly the same throughout.

* Extract of a Letter to the Committee of the General Pharmaceutic Association, and marked No. 2, in the Collection

But druggiſts are not the only perſons who are thus adventurous. In many places the grocers of the town take upon themſelves this very benevolent office, or at leaſt a part of it. In the ſmall town of UCHFIELD there are not leſs than three of this deſcription, who preſcribe as well as vend medicines: and that theſe preſcriptions, and this advice, may be free from every poſſible error, and ſure of becoming advantageous, "they apply, ſays a letter from this place, not to any phyſician, or even any apothecary, in town or in country for information, but—to the druggiſts with whom they deal: who, in conſequence hereof, ſend them down advice juſt equal

lection C. There is a manifeſt impropriety in mentioning the name of any confidential correſpondent. But I have put references to the different letters that are quoted, that each may the more readily be reſorted to.

in

in value to their medicines, and present them with tables of different doses*."

At HOLBEACH†, WAKEFIELD‡, and many other places, are persons who, in the latter town, call themselves bone-setters; and, endeavour to atone for the want of all surgical knowledge, by informing the multitude, that they are in possession of specifics in almost every case that can occur, and, of which, professional gentlemen are entirely ignorant. The result of such kind of practice can easily be conceived. "I have *seen*," says the writer of a letter from HOLBEACH, "the most dreadful consequences ensue from hence; and,

* Extract of Letter, &c. marked No. 3, in the collection C. This gentleman particularly states the articles of ipecacuanha, tartar emetic, antimonial powder, jalap, neutral draughts.

† Letter, No. 4. C. ‡ Id. No. 5. C.

if

if it be neceſſary, I will give you many inſtances in a future account, having had many poor wretches apply to me in a moſt deſperate ſtate, in conſequence of ſuch injudicious treatment*."

Similar to ſuch practitioners the committee have received an account of a man who has undertaken to practiſe both ſurgery and pharmacy at the village of BECKINGHAM, becauſe he happened to be a ſhort time before, ſtable-boy for two years to a ſurgeon in that neighbourhood†, and whoſe whole medical education was derived from hence. And from COLCHESTER, a letter has informed the Committee, of a poor wretch whoſe ſhoulder was diſlocated, and who was ordered, by a man of this deſcription, who had clearly miſtaken the caſe, to anoint the part

* Letter, No. 5, C.

† No. 6. C.

affected

affected with green elder ointment, which, he might depend upon, would ſpeedily produce a cure. This letter, likewiſe, complains of a female practitioner, who, after having been employed in a reſpectable family, in a caſe of fever and ulcerated throat, and ſending in ten draughts and three gargles compoſed of "the Lord beſt knows what," was, at length, diſcharged for injudicious conduct, when the writer himſelf was immediately applied to*. There is rather a ludicrous miſtake mentioned as having occurred in a druggiſt's houſe, in a letter from CROYDON. The writer mentions his having been applied to by the foreman of this druggiſt, "for an explanation of the words "cucurbita cruenta," which he had ſought for in vain amongſt

* No. 7. C.

the

the different preparations in his diſpenſatory; and, at laſt, had been happy enough to tranſlate them by "an electrical ſhock*." A druggiſt of ſimilar penetration is reported, in a letter from WORCESTER, to exiſt in that city: this man is repreſented as taking infinite pains to obtain, through almoſt every druggiſt's ſhop, a tincture of the name of "ejuſdem," which, unluckily for the poor man, had been preſcribed in a formula ſent to his ſhop for preparation.

It is not, however, at all times, that ſuch miſtakes have been either pleaſant or innocent: there is one related, in this laſt letter, of much more ſerious conſequence, in which laudanum was uſed for paragoric elixir, and the quantity proved ſufficient to deſtroy the unfortunate patient. From this ſenſible

* No. 8. C.

letter

letter I will extract the account of both these cases more fully, and enter them in the appendix*. The ignorance of the druggists, and drug-dealing grocers at MARLOW, has been productive of effects not less lamentable and deleterious. Arsenic, says a letter dated from this town, has been mistaken for cream of tartar†; the tinctures of opium and jalap, for those of senna and rhubarb; and nitre for Glauber's salts. From the effects of this last error, a lady who, a few weeks since, had nearly fallen a sacrifice to it, is now just recovering‡.

But it would be swelling this pamphlet to a folio volume, to extract an account of all the ignorance, and all the

* Appendix N. † Appendix O.
‡ No. 9. C.

dreadful

dreadful miſtakes, evinced by the different druggiſts and pretenders to medicine in the country, which have been narrated to the Committee by letters, and from perſonal knowledge. The ſecretary,* will, I doubt not, have the goodneſs to ſatisfy the curioſity of any perſon who wiſhes for farther ſpecimens of the ſame deſtructive conduct, at any time, when properly applied to, and from proper motives.

The Committee did not, however, confine their attention to ſuch individual ſtatements alone. With reſpect to druggiſts, they knew it to be an incontrovertible fact that, independent of the varieties of the ſame materials, varieties of different value, which they keep continually in their warehouſes,

* JOHN LEWIS, Eſq; Half-Moon-ſtreet, Piccadilly.

and

and to which they have recourſe, and vend according as circumſtances require, they knew it to be a fact, that few or no druggiſts compound the preparations of the pharmacopæia of the College of Phyſicians, in all inſtances conſiſtently with the expreſs injunctions of the Pharmacopæia. On the contrary, that they have nearly all of them noſtrums and receipts of their own, from which thoſe preparations are compounded; preparations, indeed, which may paſs under the reſpective titles given in the pharmacopæia, and which, in general, may elude the eye by a ſimilarity of colour, and, ſometimes, even the tongue by a ſimilarity of taſte; but which are, in all inſtances, infinitely leſs efficacious, and are only compounded in a different and clandeſtine manner, becauſe they can thus be compounded much cheaper, or with more eaſe.

To aſcertain, more publickly, however, the truth of this fact, they ſent to more than a dozen of the moſt reſpectable druggiſts this metropolis will afford, for ſpecimens of a variety of drugs and preparations of the preſent LONDON Pharmacopæia, moſt material in the practice of medicine; as alſo for the compoſition of a variety of extemporaneous preſcriptions, ſelected for this purpoſe. In my account of which, I ſhall borrow the words of the Secretary, as I cannot do better, and as he has allowed me ſo to do, in his report on this ſubject, as entered in the minute book.

" The reſult of all theſe inveſtigations, obſerves he, confirmed, beyond a doubt, every aſſertion that has hitherto been advanced, reſpecting the neceſſity of a reform in the profeſſion of pharmacy,

macy, in consequence of the errors and adulterations to which the public are constantly exposed, and which they can seldom detect or avoid.

" The general remarks of the Special Committee appointed to scrutinize the different specimens produced, were as follows:

" That, in the far greater number of instances, there were most evidently spurious or defective drugs, and erroneous composition.

" That the different compositions of the same prescription were, in almost every instance, dissimilar from each other.

" That the most expensive medicines were all of them, without any exception,

tion, adulterated, as oil of cloves, oil of cinnamon, ladanum emplaſter, cantharides emplaſter, aromatic confection, ſena-electuary, tinctures of guaiacum, cardamoms, rhubarb, &c. &c. &c.

" That there ſcarcely appeared to be one inſtance of a medicine being faithfully prepared from the formula of the LONDON Pharmacopæia; nor of a ſimple, but expenſive drug, to be procured genuine. Such was the caſe, particularly with ALEPPO ſcammony, with ſaffron, and RUSSIAN caſtor. Scammony could not be obtained pure even in its concrete ſtate. The ſpecimens of ſaffron were procured in the hay, as it is vulgarly called; and this form was determined upon, becauſe leaſt likely to be adulterated. But even of this there was no one ſpecimen genuine; thoſe which were ſold having all

all of them an acrid taſte, very foreign to what ſaffron ought to poſſeſs, and imparting little or no colour to ſpring water when infuſed in it. The RUSSIAN caſtor was ſupplied by that from NEW ENGLAND.

" Myrrh and ammoniacum were, in a few inſtances, in the line of mediocrity, and, in others, intolerable. Powder of gum arabic was generally very indifferent; and, in one inſtance, when formed, as it ought to have been, into a mucilage, contained no gluten whatever, was extremely dirty, and extremely opake.

" The ſtronger quickſilver ointment was of very different ſpecific gravities; and, of two ſpecimens, one weighed, bulk for bulk, a third part heavier than the other.

" The

" The preparations from extemporaneous prescriptions scarcely bore any resemblance to what was expected, had they been compounded aright; and no two, from the same prescription, were similar. Vitriolic ether and camphor, mixture, which comprized a part of one formula agreed upon, were neither of them employed in two instances. And decoctions of Peruvian bark were, of all degrees of weakness, and of all colours."

" The directions were, in many cases, misconceived, and improperly translated; in others, not more than half translated; and, in one instance particularly, the very reverse of what was written*."

It

* This above is merely a short and general sketch of what appeared to the notice of the Special Committee. It is,

It may appear ſingular that, in the midſt of ſuch innumerable errors and abuſes, detection ſhould not be more frequent by the cenſors of the College of Phyſicians, and the wardens of the Company of Apothecaries, in their annual examination of medicinal ſhops and warehouſes. But it is no difficult taſk, againſt the anniverſary of this public inſpection, to be ſupplied with a ſmall aſſortment of genuine articles of every kind; and ſtill leſs difficult, when the ſupply is thus procured, to produce it as a ſpecimen of the whole quantity the druggiſt has in his poſſeſſion. In what quarter of the warehouſe the larger and remaining quantities of ſpurious materials are ſecreted, the pharmaceutic

is, however, ſufficient for many purpoſes, and eſpecially for the preſent: and, for a more complete ſtatement, the entire minutes, which are preſerved, may be referred to.

critic knows not, nor does he think it worth while to make ſo fruitleſs an enquiry. He determines from what is preſented to him, the druggiſt acquires an undeſerved credit, and the impoſition on the public continues.

So numerous, indeed, and ſo important are theſe deceptions and abuſes of the druggiſt, that it is but a ſhort time ſince a reſpectable apothecary of this city, who is not a member of the PHARMACEUTIC ASSOCIATION, was under the neceſſity of returning to his druggiſt, forty articles out of ſeventy-two that were ſent him, in conſequence of their having been either not genuine, or improperly prepared. And it is not more than a fortnight, from the time I am now writing, that a druggiſt, of much reſpectability, told me of his having received a complete order to

furniſh

furniſh another apothecary's ſhop at ſome little diſtance from him; but added that, as the gentleman who had ſent the order, had deſired him to be very particular in the ſelection of his articles, he had, himſelf, purchaſed more than half of them at Apothecaries' Hall.

Here, therefore, is a druggiſt who has the ingenuouſneſs to acknowledge, that not half the medicines in his warehouſe are genuine; and that, when he is obliged to ſend out medicines which are genuine, he is under the neceſſity of applying to ſome other quarter for a ſupply. And yet this druggiſt has a large wholeſale conſumption for the articles he keeps by him, and is conſiderably engaged in vending thoſe articles by retail; as well as in compounding the preſcriptions of phyſicians, and ſurgeons.

But to return to the operations of the Committee. They not only inveſtigated more deeply the frauds and abuſes of druggiſts, together with the mal-practices of many ignorant and illiterate pretenders to the pharmaceutic profeſſion: but in order to attach the whole community of the healing art to the object of their purſuit, and to leave no aſſiſtance unſolicited, they preſented addreſſes on the ſubject, to the College of PHYSICIANS, the Corporation of SURGEONS, and the Company of APOTHECARIES: from the former of which they have already been honoured with a polite, and encouraging reply. The parliament was next adverted to; ſeveral of the members were waited upon, that their ſentiments might be collected; and, at length, the miniſter himſelf. All were very ready to admit the extreme neceſſity there is for a redreſs of the

the grievances enumerated; all, but more eſpecially the miniſter, adviſed the Committee to perſevere, and pointed out the beſt mode of application: which was, by a petition to parliament for leave to introduce a bill on this ſubject. In conſequence of which, a petition was immediately drawn up, and preſented by Sir WILLIAM DOLBEN, on the the 6th of February laſt, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Committee had ſtrong hopes, at the time of the preſentation of this petition, notwithſtanding the ſeſſion was ſo rapidly advancing towards its cloſe, that, before that event happened, they ſhould be enabled to digeſt the meditated bill, and get it introduced into the houſe. But the importance of the matter it was to contain, and of the regulations it might be proper to adopt,

required ſo much cautious enquiry, and mature deliberation, as to render this impoſſible, without precipitating it in a crude, and indigeſted form. And, by the advice, therefore, of a moſt reſpectable member of the Lower Houſe, the Committee reſolved unanimouſly to poſtpone it till the enſuing ſeſſions: and, in the mean time, to ſolicit in a more full and explanatory manner, the opinion and aſſiſtance of the College of Phyſicians, as to what farther remains to be accompliſhed.

But it was neceſſary to inform the ASSOCIATION at large, and eſpecially thoſe members reſident at great diſtances in the country, what had been already atchieved; and a paper was, to this purpoſe, therefore, drawn up in the month of March laſt, and circulated, with the ſignature of the ſecretary, through every part

part of GREAT BRITAIN. It ſtated the unwearied labours of the Committee in inveſtigating the frauds, and impoſitions already complained of, and the neceſſity there was for perſeverance: it gave an account of the addreſſes, applications, and petition already enumerated, and concluded with deeming it neceſſary, that, in order to obtain fundamental redreſs, the following principles ought to be continually adverted to.

Firſt, That the liberty to vend pharmaceutical preparations, compound phyſicians' preſcriptions, &c. &c. ſhould appertain to the apothecary alone. For as the apothecary neceſſarily attends patients without any emolument but what ariſes from the profits of the medicines he may vend, it will be folly to imagine that any perſon will ſubject himſelf to an expenſive education, and a waſte of

time in apprenticeſhip, if men egregiouſly ignorant, can obtain, under any other appellation, the ſame advantages, and without the ſame labour, or that hazard unavoidably, and often fatally, accompanying an attendance upon the infected ſick.

Secondly, That no young men be taken as apprentices who have not had an approved education.

Thirdly, That none be aſſiſtants without having been examined as to their competency for pharmaceutical compoſitions, &c. &c. &c.

Fourthly, That none be at liberty to ſettle until examined; nor any perſon entitled to an examination until he ſhall have faithfully ſerved an apprenticeſhip of five years at the leaſt.

Fifthly,

Fifthly, That, to promote theſe purpoſes, a competent court be eſtabliſhed, to conſiſt of *a certain number of members*, who ſhall have full power to make ſuch bye laws and regulations as may be thought moſt conducive to the welfare both of the public and the profeſſion.

SECT. IV.

Obſervations on the Principles of Action laid down by the Pharmaceutic Aſſociation; and a Vindication of them, as conſiſtent with general Juſtice and Policy; as equally and indiviſibly connected with the Advantage of the Nation at large, and the very Exiſtence of the Profeſſion itſelf, as a Profeſſion of any poſſible Utility.

AS the principles contained in the circulatory addreſs of the Pharmaceutic Committee, with which the laſt ſection cloſes, appear to be of material conſequence towards the proſecution of a pharmaceutic reform, though they may probably be reſiſted by intereſted perſons, and ſome ſhadow of argument

argument employed to ſupport ſuch reſiſtance, the preſent ſection ſhall be dedicated to their defence.

Is it juſt, it may be enquired, is it conſiſtent with the broad intereſts of commerce, to deprive a reſpectable body of men of a large part of that buſineſs which conſtitutes their livelihood, and which they have now, for nearly a century, enjoyed without moleſtation? and would not the public be expoſed to as many impoſitions, and to much heavier expences, from this monopolizing ſpirit of the apothecaries, provided they obtain the object of their purſuit, than it is expoſed to at preſent, while all are competitors for public favor?

And is it, in the ſecond place, conſiſtent with the laws of policy, or of common juſtice, to exclude a man from

an occupation of any kind, merely because, from humility of birth, and the want of more opulent friends, he has not been able to enjoy the advantages of a classical education? Do we not frequently meet with men, of no education, who are possest of an uncommon genius, while, on the contrary, we often meet with men of expensive educations, who are possest of no genius at all; and is not a good genius, at all times, capable of surmounting the difficulties by which it is surrounded?

To both these enquiries, in general, the old adage may pertinently be applied, *Salus populi suprema lex*, the health or well-being of the nation must ever constitute the supreme law.

But with respect to the first more particularly, it has already been stated, that

that the profeſſion of the apothecary, when properly cultivated and reſpectable, is of infinite advantage to the kingdom. That he has an almoſt infinite majority of patients to attend, in compariſon with any other practitioner; and thoſe in ſituations of extreme hazard, and fatality. His life is a ſeries of unceaſing haraſſment and anxiety. He is perpetually expoſed to the evils of midnight diſturbance, at all hours, and in all atmoſpheres, and the ſtill greater dangers of morbific contagion. Not an infectious complaint can ariſe, but he is liable to its deleterious effects, and, compared with himſelf, every other man holds his exiſtence in a ſtate of aſſurance and ſecurity. I have twice myſelf been in the utmoſt danger, in conſequence of contagion from typhoid patients. In the firſt inſtance, I was deprived of all recollection for more than

than three weeks, and was, at length, abandoned by my medical friends, as on the very point of death. Contrary, however, to all expectation, I recovered; but ſcarcely were my debilitated limbs capable of ſuſtaining the ſlender weight of my body, when this friend, whoſe kindneſs had induced him to officiate for me, during my ſevere illneſs, was himſelf attacked with the ſame diſeaſe, communicated from a patient he likewiſe had attended; and, leſs fortunate than myſelf, he expired under its preſſure, before I had recovered ſtrength enough to return him the kind offices I had received. Such inſtances are common: and, ſurely, the profeſſion that encounters them deſerves excluſive reward.

" Every perſon, if poſſible, obſerves " Mr. HUME, ought to enjoy the fruits " of his labour, in a full poſſeſſion of all

" the

" the neceſſaries, and many of the con-
" veniences of life. And their profits
" ſhould be proportionable to their ex-
" pence and hazard*."

But this is not all. It is from the ſhop of the apothecary the ARMY, and NAVY, with the COLONIES dependent on this kingdom, derive nearly the whole of their medical aſſiſtants. And upon the initiation into practice which ſuch aſſiſtants receive, muſt depend the greater part of their future character and capacity.

If the practitioners, under whom they are placed, be themſelves men of no education or ability, what reaſonable expectation can be entertained that the pupil will be more wiſe than his maſter? On the contrary, if ſuch ſuperiors be men of upright character, and ſound medical ſkill, the apprenticeſhip of

* Eſſay on Commerce, p. 281.

every

every young man intruſted to their care, will form a ſchool of continual improvement; his ſtudies will be duly directed; progreſſive knowledge will be acquired; and, what is of no ſmall conſequence to himſelf, or to the world at large, morality will triumph over debauchery and vice.

Nor, even, is the profeſſion of the phyſician unintereſted in that of the apothecary. "There certainly is not a ſchool, obſerves Dr. FERRIS, more excellently calculated for the attainment of much of the moſt uſeful knowledge the phyſician ſhould poſſeſs, than the ſhop of an intelligent apothecary. Beſides a thorough proficiency in the peculiar buſineſs of inveſtigating and judging of the comparative goodneſs of medicines, and of their various preparations and compoſitions, if a young man, in ſuch ſituations, be permitted

to

to accompany his principal in his viſits to patients, which, in moſt inſtances, is the caſe in the latter years of his apprenticeſhip, perhaps to viſit for him; he commands the very beſt ſource of medical obſervation, information, and experience. He ſees diſeaſes at their commencement; he has it in his power to mark the progreſs of their ſymptoms, and, with examples before him, can more readily be taught to diſcriminate thoſe ſymptoms which characterize the nature of the diſeaſe, and which indicate the remedies appropriate to its cure. He anticipates the advantages of attending the practice of hoſpitals. He is early trained to habits of thinking and converſing upon medical ſubjects, and is, as it were, grammatically inſtructed in pharmacy, and its application. He is, therefore, initiated, by the beſt of all poſſible means, in a moſt eſſential branch of medical ſcience; and is well prepared

pared to continue his ſtudies with advantage, " Cognitis enim principiis multo facilius extrema intelliguntur*."

But if the pharmaceutic profeſſion be of ſo much conſequence to the nation at large, from whatever point it is viewed, it ought, ſurely, to receive a due encouragement from the nation in return. It ought to be aſſiſted by the nation; it ought to be aſſiſted by the legiſlature, in throwing off from itſelf thoſe grievances by which it is oppreſſed; and, in re-acquiring the poſſeſſion of thoſe emoluments, which are ſo juſtly its own, and, without which, I do not heſitate to predict, it cannot long ſurvive†. The profits ariſing from compound

* General View of the Eſtabliſhment of Phyſic, &c.

† The laſt edition of " the Medical Regiſter," a book that gives the number and names of all the medical practitioners in this kingdom, was publiſhed in 1783, by JOHNSON. It did not anſwer, in its ſale, ſo well as it ought

compound pharmacy, conſtitute the whole of its ſupport; and it is a ſource of ſupport which it has enjoyed, and, till of late, enjoyed without moleſtation, from the earlieſt periods of time. The two former ſections of this diſſertation are dedicated to the proof of this. In them it appears that no ſuch occupation as that of the modern druggiſt exiſted, or was capable of exiſting, amongſt the GREEKS, the ROMANS, or the SARACENS. That it is not to be

ought to have done, and it has ſince been diſcontinued. The Committee have taken ſome pains to diſcover the number of apothecaries exiſting, at this time, in the kingdom, and they are ſtill perſevering in the attempt, though the accounts are, at preſent, far from being completed. On a compariſon, however, of the returns already communicated to them, with JOHNSON's Medical Regiſter, they find, that notwithſtanding the increaſe of population in this country, during the above period of twelve years, which ſhould naturally have produced a proportionate increaſe of medical practitioners, there is not only no increaſe, but, on the contrary, a diminution of one-tenth part of the number that then exiſted.

traced

traced, in any early period, in the hiſtory of FRANCE, ITALY, or of GREAT BRITAIN. That the pharmaceutiſt was the general compounder of all medicines required, whether for his own practice, or the practice of phyſicians; and that it was from hence alone he drew his livelihood and ſubſiſtence.

It is idle, therefore, to contend that the compoſition of medicines, and medical preſcriptions, is an inherent branch of the buſineſs of a druggiſt, and, of which, he ought not to be deprived. The entire buſineſs of a druggiſt is but of modern date; and this pretended branch of his occupation was not, in any degree, attempted to be connected with the original buſineſs, till half a century after its firſt origin. The druggiſt is not, moreover, as is the apothecary, dependant upon this branch of buſineſs for his entire ſupport. It is

to

to the wholeſale part of his occupation; it is to the ſupply of apothecaries themſelves, with the materials they have occaſion for, that he directs his principal attention, and, from whence he draws his chief ſubſiſtence. And this retail appendage is a kind of perquiſite, or ſincure, which he ought not to poſſeſs, and which he might be deprived of without much perſonal detriment. It is a complete innovation and infringement on the province of the apothecary; whom, while with one hand, he ſupplies with the means of ſubſiſtence, with the other he prevents from putting thoſe means into execution. It ought not to have been tolerated at any time; and the time it has been tolerated, far from forming a reaſon why it ſhould be tolerated any longer, is a moſt forcible reaſon for its being inſtantly ſuppreſſed. The well-

being

being of the nation, and the very exiſtence of an important profeſſion, alike unite in demanding its ſuppreſſion.

Si unus quiſque noſtrûm, obſerves CICERO, and no one will diſpute the morality or the propriety of the obſervation, rapiat ad ſe commoda aliorum, detrahatque quod cuique poſſit, emolumenti ſui gratia: ſocietas hominum, et communitas evertatur neceſſe eſt. Nam ſibi ut quiſque malit, quod ad uſum vitæ pertineat, quam alteri, acquirere, conceſſum eſt, non repugnante natura. Illud natura non patitur, ut aliorum ſpoliis, noſtras facultates, copias, opes augeamus*.

So inconſiſtent, indeed, with propriety, with commerce, and with general juſtice, is this encroachment of

* De Offic. lib. 3.

the

the drug-merchant on the profeſſion of pharmacy, that I am perſuaded it never could have been permitted, even in the moſt barbarous times, had it made a diſcovery of its full aim and extent at once. But this it dared not attempt; it was by degrees the monſter diſplayed itſelf, and, by degrees, completed its enormous graſp. But it has ſurely lived long enough already; and the increaſing knowledge of the preſent age, that enables us to eſtimate things according to their real value, ſhould inſtantly deſtroy it for ever. "Induſtry and refinements in the mechanical arts," obſerves Mr. HUME, "commonly produce ſome refinement in the liberal; nor can one be carried to perfection without being accompanied, in ſome degree, with the other. The ſame age which produces great philoſophers and politicians, renowned generals and poets, uſually

uſually abounds with ſkilful weavers and ſhip-carpenters. We cannot reaſonably expect that a piece of woollen cloth will be wrought to perfection in a nation which is ignorant of aſtronomy, or where ethics are neglected. The ſpirit of the age affects all the arts, and the minds of men, being once rouſed from their lethargy, and put into a fermentation, turn themſelves on all ſides, and carry improvements into every art and ſcience*." This obſervation is true with regard to every thing but medicine: but, perhaps, this philoſopher was unacquainted with its evils when he dictated ſuch a ſentiment, or, perhaps, he wrote prophetically, and the period of its full accompliſhment approaches.

* Eſſay on Refinements in the Arts.

But

But would not an undue monopoly from hence originate? Would not the price of medicines be advanced moſt unreaſonably, and impoſitions be, at leaſt, as numerous as at preſent? Would not the poor be deprived of the benefit of medical advice? And, is it not owing to the competition between druggiſts and apothecaries, at this moment, that the price of medicines is yet within their reach?

Moſt aſſuredly not, nor could any of theſe evils be hereby introduced. In every occupation that is open to the public at large, there can be no danger of any undue monopoly: and no occupation can be more open than that of pharmacy would ſtill be. Moderate wealth would ſuffice, moderate connexions, and even moderate ability; but ſome degree of education muſt be

insisted upon; an education not beyond the reach of the multitude, but consistent with the lowest degree of mediocrity. If, therefore, the profession of pharmacy be once erected on a basis of respectability and moderate profit, so many would immediately flock into it, that monopoly would be rendered altogether impossible. Trades and professions of every kind, will, at all times, find their level, and he who disposes of his time, and his materials, at the cheapest ratio, will, with few exceptions, be certain of the largest employment*. The price of medicines and advice would never, therefore, in this case, rise above their real value.

* "If there were any employment more or less advantageous than the rest, so many people would flock into it, in the one case, and so many would desert it in the other, that its advantages would soon return to the level of other employments." Smith's Wealth of Nations.

It

It might be lower than it is at preſent, from the general diviſion of the pharmaceutic part of every druggiſt's profit, amongſt apothecaries at large; but there is no reaſon to ſuppoſe the nation would pay more for its annual average of medicines than it does at preſent. The profeſſion would become more reſpectable; and it is not from the reſpectable part of it that impoſitions are to be apprehended; it is from the diſreputable and the ignorant, the man who is large in promiſe, but little in capacity. It is not the phyſician, nor the lawyer of character, but the unqualified empyric, the petty-fogging attorney, who is guilty of knavery and deceit. The poor would, therefore, become doubly benefited hereby; they would be almoſt certain of applying to a man of real ability, who, by being at once apprized of the nature of the diſeaſe complained

of, would be more likely to apply a ſpeedy and an effectual remedy; and that ſympathy and humanity, which are almoſt inſeparable from reſpectability of character, would induce the practitioner to be frequently charitable and gratuitous.

It is not to be expected, however, that the price at any time charged by a druggiſt for compound medicines, would be altogether ſatisfactory to an apothecary for preparing the very ſame. Few medicines, in a druggiſt's warehouſe, are compounded from genuine materials; and it has frequently occurred, that a preſcription containing three or four articles of nearly equal value, has been pretended to be compounded at ſuch places, and the price charged to the perſon who has thus caſually applied, been leſs than that charged for one of the

the articles only to apothecaries who have ſtatedly dealt with ſuch druggiſts. The price charged to the pharmaceutic committee, for the medicines they ſent for and ſcrutinized, far from being exorbitant, was ſcarcely ſufficient to admit of any profit upon the different preparations, had they been compoſed of genuine materials; but it has already been obſerved, that the ſame preſcriptions were not only compounded from materials different from each other, but that ſcarcely one of them was compounded from materials which were genuine; and the temptations which druggiſts are continually expoſed to, when engaged in a retail buſineſs, temptations which it is almoſt impoſſible to overcome, have already been pointed out. But theſe are temptations the apothecary can never be ſubject to, at leaſt in an equal degree: for it is impoſſible he ſhould

ever have in his poſſeſſion ſo large a ſtock of indifferent articles, of the refuſe and offals of thoſe which are genuine, as the druggiſt muſt have at all times. Added to which, his intereſt and reputation are more at ſtake than thoſe of the druggiſt. Of the former, medical compoſition conſtitutes the ſole employment, ſo far at leaſt as regards profit; but it does not conſtitute the ſole, nor even the chief employment of the latter. The druggiſt compounds by his ſervants, for a patient whom perhaps, neither himſelf nor his ſervants are in the leaſt acquainted with; at whoſe deceaſe they cannot weep, at whoſe recovery they cannot rejoice. The apothecary compounds at all times for an acquaintance, and moſt frequently for a friend: he can never become active without becoming concerned; and his intereſt is connected with the event.

Should,

Should, therefore, a druggiſt employ genuine articles in the preparation of a preſcription, ſuch as an honeſt apothecary could approve, and ſhould he demand ſuch a price as might be ſufficient to ſatisfy himſelf, it might not, nevertheleſs, be ſufficient to indemnify the apothecary who had prepared the ſame preſcription; and that in conſequence of the infinite diſparity of ſituations. "The profit of apothecaries, obſerves Dr. Adam Smith, is become a bye word denoting ſomething uncommonly extravagant. This great apparent profit, however, is frequently no more than the reaſonable wages of labour. The ſkill of an apothecary is a much nicer and more delicate matter than that of any artificer whatever; and the truſt which is repoſed in him, is of much greater importance. His reward, therefore, ought to be ſuitable to his ſkill and his

truſt; and it ariſes generally from the price at which he ſells his drugs. Though he ſhould ſell them, therefore, at three or four hundred, or even a thouſand per cent. profit, this may be no more than the reaſonable wages of his labour charged, in the only way in which he can charge them, upon the price of his drugs. The greater part of the apparent profit is real wages diſguiſed in the garb of profit*."

Perhaps this celebrated author is right in obſerving that "this is the *only way* in which an apothecary *can* charge for his ſkill and labour." But if ſo, it is a way that ought not to be interfered with, or infringed upon by a claſs of people who have it not in their power to evince ſuch ſkill and labour: it ought

* Wealth of Nations.

not

not to be interfered with or infringed upon by thoſe who ſupply him with the very materials he employs; who have an ample profit upon thoſe materials in the firſt inſtance, and who are dependent upon him for that profit. This, moſt aſſuredly, is neither juſt, nor generous, nor conſiſtent with any true policy or commerce whatever. If, in effect, this were *not* the only way in which the apothecary could make his charge, if he had any other reſource for indemnification in his power, the caſe would in ſome meaſure be varied. But how deſirable ſoever ſuch a different mode of payment might be—and on many accounts it certainly is deſirable—it does not, according to the preſent diviſion of the medical profeſſion, appear attainable by any means.

But there is another reaſon why an apothecary may not probably be ſatis-

fied with the price which might probably satisfy a druggist, and on which account he is entitled to a larger profit: I mean that the druggist is almost universally paid in ready money, while the apothecary is under the necessity of giving credit for a twelvemonth at the least. The druggist, therefore, is in no hazard of contracting uncertain and indifferent debts: while the apothecary, like every other man engaged in trade upon credit, must be uncommonly fortunate indeed, if he do not contract many, and some on which he had placed no small reliance. Deaths and bankruptcies may injure him in a variety of forms. And when, at length, he obtains permission to introduce the account of the past year, he will too often discover there are persons in GREAT BRITAIN, as well as there were formerly in GERMANY, whom ERICUS CORDUS,

CORDUS, a physician of the sixteenth century, who was accustomed to receive his fees only at the termination of his patients disease, describes in a facetious epigram, as regarding the practitioner at three different times, in three different characters,

Tres medicus facies habet; unam, quando rogatur,
Angelicam: mox est, cum juvat, ipse Deus.
Post ubi curato, poscit sua premia, morbo,
Horridus apparet, terribilisque Sathan*.

The entire restoration then, of retail pharmacy to the apothecary is, in every respect, laudable and just. It is consistent with the requisitions both of commerce and of the community. It could not, in any instance, be productive of

* Epigr. lib. 7.
Three faces wears the doctor: when first sought
An angel's—and a god's the cure half wrought:
But, when, that cure complete, he seeks his fee,
The devil looks then less terrible than he.

monopoly, but it would effectually prevent impoſition and abuſe.

With reſpect to the ſecond objection I have ſtated, ariſing from the excluſion of any perſon from any occupation, merely from the humility of his birth; and becauſe, in conſequence, hereof, he has not been able to enjoy the advanvantages of a claſſical education, much that might be neceſſary to notice on this ſubject, by way of reply, has already been introduced in the foregoing pages. And as for the reſt, precedents for ſuch reſtrictive regulations are to be found in a thouſand inſtances, in almoſt every country in EUROPE. In RUSSIA no apothecary can practiſe till he have been examined by the chancery of medicine: and in DENMARK and HOLSTEIN, till he have obtained a licence from the colleges of COPENHAGEN, and LEIGE,

and

and have ſubmitted to an apprenticeſhip of at leaſt five years. But to confine ourſelves to GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND. Medicine, in the former, is the only profeſſion in which ſuch regulations do not exiſt; no man can be either a lawyer or a clergyman, without ſome public teſt of ability and qualification. And, in the latter, an act of parliament has for ſome years been paſſed expreſsly on the ſubject of pharmaceutic reform; and ſimilar, indeed, in this reſpect, to the act we are endeavouring to obtain in this kingdom. And happy am I to add, that this act of the IRISH parliament has been attended with the greateſt benefit and ſatisfaction, both to the profeſſion, and the nation at large.

It is impoſſible that an ignorant man can be qualified for any profeſſion in any kingdom; and before he becomes qua-

qualified, therefore, it is neceſſary he ſhould become inſtructed. We war not with poverty more than with riches—for a rich man may be ignorant as well as a poor man. It is againſt ignorance alone we contend; againſt a power of doing miſchief, without a capacity of doing good. If, at any age, a man wiſh to engage in the practiſe of medicine as an apothecary: at any age he may ſtill do it: but he muſt ſubmit to the neceſſary requiſitions: he muſt become acquainted with the rudiments of the profeſſion---and he muſt, in conſeqence, put himſelf under the tuition of thoſe who, having been themſelves properly taught, are properly qualified to inſtruct.

Ignorance muſt, of neceſſity, be a ſource of evil in every profeſſion: but of all profeſſions it is moſt to be dreaded in

that

that of medicine. A ſingle error may here produce death; and the ſame material become an antidote or a poiſon, according to the degree of judgment with which it is employed.

It is for want of ſome ſuch reſtrictions, as are here contended for, that the practiſe of medicine has, in all ages, been deemed an uncertain practiſe, and the practitioner himſelf expoſed to much deriſion and contempt. Uncertain it muſt ever be, in many inſtances, when conducted by the moſt ſkilful: but the degree of uncertainty of a medicine in the hands of a ſcientific and an ignorant practitioner, will bear no compariſon whatſoever. The one is the ornament and benefactor of human nature, diſtributing, like the Almighty himſelf, continual ſtreams of life, of health, and of happineſs around him: the other is

its

its worſt foe, and its curſe; that, like the ſerpent in the garden of EDEN, may indeed aſſume a moſt plauſible appearance, but is pregnant with miſchief and death*.

But education is not only a ſource of knowledge, but of morals: and whilſt the ſcience of medicine has its myſteries, and is locked up from the eye of the multitude, this is of more conſequence than may at firſt ſight, perhaps, be apprehended. "It is not of ſmall importance, obſerves an antient and intelligent philoſopher, whether a

* Almoſt all writers have contended for the propriety of ſuch reſtrictions in every branch of the medical profeſſion. And DR. KIRKLAND, therefore, till ſuch reſtrictions are introduced, adviſes, with reſpect to ſurgery, the only branch to which he adverts, that there ſhould be ſupervifors or directors appointed, duly qualified for the performance of their duty. Inquiry. &c. Introd.

youth

youth be educated in this way or the other, it is, on the contrary, of the utmoſt moment: for on this alone depends the whole of his future conduct*."

The man of education and morality, will avoid impoſition even more than error, and will recommend himſelf to public favor, not by the unbluſhing boaſts of an empire, but by the honeſt, and conſcientious diſcharge of a duty he is qualified to perform. It is not from ſuch a man that abuſe and the tricks of trade are to be apprehended; but it is from the pretender to knowledge, the man whoſe youth has never been ſubjected to the rules of ſcience, or reſtrained by the laws of morality: and

* Ου μικρον διαφερει τό ουτως ἡ ουτως ευθυς ἐκ νέων ἐθιζεσθαι ἀλλὰ παμπολυ μαλλον δὲ τό παν. Nicom. lib. 2. cap. 1.

who,

who, from poverty alone, independent of the want of virtuous principle, might be tempted, in no ſmall degree, to deceive and impoſe upon.

I know not whether SHAKSPERE's deſcription of an apothecary in ROMEO and JULIET, were conſiſtent with the profeſſion, as at that time practiſed in ITALY. But it is, I am afraid, by far too conſiſtent with the coſtume of the preſent time, in GREAT BRITAIN. Poverty is too often its ſad and only inheritance: and where extreme poverty exiſts, the conſequence is often to be trembled for. And I much fear, from the unbounded liberty which is at preſent allowed to the practice of pharmacy, that the MANTUAN apothecary, though too ſucceſsfully aſſaulted in one inſtance, would be comparatively a moſt valuable member of modern ſociety. I very

very much fear there are numbers amongſt us, not only of whom it might be ſaid, on the offer of a far leſs bribe than forty ducats *,

His poverty but not his will conſents,

but that in too many inſtances it might be obſerved,

His poverty and will conſent alike.

To put then a reſtraint upon theſe evils, to reſcue the profeſſion from all temptation to commit them, and the public from ſuffering beneath their exiſtence, is not, ſurely, an unworthy or an ungenerous attempt. Such an attempt by the public itſelf muſt be undertaken

* Come hither man:—I ſee that thou art poor:
Hold, here is forty ducats; let me have
A dram of poiſon.
ROMEO and JULIET, Act V.

dertaken eventually, if not complied with now; for the increaſe of abuſes would enforce it. But how much more creditable is it in the profeſſion itſelf, to be firſt in the field of action, to challenge its own community, and to wipe away all thoſe blots and diſgraces, which have ſo long defaced and tarniſhed it.

Such abuſes have ſurely exiſted long enough already, and it is full time they ſhould be deſtroyed for ever. They form the perpetual complaint of HIPPOCRATES, of PLINY, and more eſpecially of GALEN*. The ARABIAN

* His epiſtles to THRASYBULUS and POSTHUMUS, are loaded with ſuch hiſtories. In that to the latter he compares the practitioners at ROME, to robbers and aſſaſſins. Ut apud nos ſibi latrones pareunt, et in facienda injuria, mutuo conveniunt; ita medici ROMÆ nunc habitantes faciunt; hocque ſolo a latronibus differunt, quod in urbibus non in montibus inſidiantur, &c.

and

and the GERMAN phyſicians are full of ſuch complaints. And, in DENMARK and FRANCE, the profeſſion has more than once been in danger hereby of being entirely ſuppreſt. The inhabitants chuſing rather to truſt to the medical powers of nature alone, than to ſubmit to the fraudulencies of diſhoneſt pharmaceutiſts. Every public act, in this kingdom, that is by any means referable to medicine, from the time of HENRY V. to the preſent reign, breathes the ſame language of complaint and indignation. Hence was incorporated the College of Phyſicians, hence apothecaries were all prohibited practiſe, except thoſe who had been admitted as licentiates of the college; and hence, at times, they were all prohibited without any exception whatever. Hence the incorporation of Apothecaries company: and hence he duty incumbent on both the cenſors of the

the college, and the wardens of the company, to examine, at ſtated times, the medical materials of all practitioners whatever, to approve of thoſe which are genuine, and to deſtroy the baſe and adulterate.

But nothing that has been attempted has been hitherto ſufficient. The nation and the profeſſion have ſtill ſubmitted to the ſame evils: and what is yet more to be lamented, thoſe evils have qeen perpetually increaſing. Ignorant and diſhoneſt practitioners have ſtill impoſed on the public, and diſgraced their own community; and an act has ſtill been wanting to reſtrain ſuch perſons from practiſing at all. Till this act be obtained, theſe evils will continue to increaſe: and, unleſs it be obtained ſoon, every reſpectable man will be withdrawing himſelf from the profeſſion, and aban-

abandoning it for something more lucrative and more honourable. The name of an apothecary may, indeed, still be found, but it will be a name without a meaning, a *vox et præterea nihil.*

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

A.—*Page* 53.

PROFESSOR GOELICHE, who was no friend to either ſurgeons or apothecaries, and who laments, throughout the whole of his writings, that the phyſician ſhould not now, as formerly, poſſeſs every branch of the medical practice, and enjoy the *felicitas priſtinorum temporum*, cannot avoid tranſlating the pharmaceutice of CELSUS, by profeſſio pharmacopolarum. He pleaſes himſelf, however, with the belief that after this diviſion, this *fatalis partium medicinæ divulſio*, the apothecaries and ſurgeons were, nevertheleſs, always regarded in a light inferior to that of phyſicians, and never acted but by their directions, and as their aſſiſtants; a belief which, however juſt it might have been with the practice of his own era, was certainly founded on fancy alone with reſpect to the periods alluded to by CELSUS, and the different branches of dietetic, pharmaceutic, and chirurgical practice into which he has repreſented the art of medicine as formerly divided.

Hiſt. Med. Univerſ. par. 2 ſect. 155, 157, 160.

B.—*Page* 67.

The authors of Les Reflexions ſur les Ouvrages de Literature, are certainly in an error in ſuppoſing medicine one of the laſt ſciences to which the ARABIANS addicted themſelves. On the contrary, from the above obſervations, as well as a number of others that might be advanced, it was the ſtudy of medicine that firſt induced them to pay a regard to every other ſtudy.

Vide Tom. V. p. 92.

C.—*Page* 118.

Ex bundello petitionum de anno nono Hen. V. in parliamento.

" But worthie ſoveraines hit is known to your hey diſcretion, many uncunnyng, and unaproved in the aforeſaide ſcience practiſeth and ſpecially in fyſyk; ſo that in this realme is every man, be he never ſo lewed, takeing upon him practyſe, y ſuffered to uſe it to grete harme, and ſlaughtre of many men, where if no man practiſed therein, but all only connynge men, and approved ſufficiently, the learned in arts filoſofye and fyſyk, as it is kept in other londes and roialmes, then ſhould many man, that dyeth for defaute of helpe, lyve, and no man periſh by uncunnyng.

" Wherefore

"Wherefore pleſeth to your excellents wyſdome, that no man of no manner eſtate, degre, or condition, practiſe in fyſyk fro this time forward, bot he have long time y uſed the ſcoles of fyſyk, within ſome univerſitie; and be graduated in the ſame," &c.

D.—*Page* 103.

A. D. 1540. *For Phyſicians and their Privilege,* 32 *Hen. VIII. cap.* 40. § 2.

"And that it may pleaſe your moſt Royal Majeſty, by the authority aforeſaid, That from henceforth the ſaid preſident, for the time being, commons and fellows and their ſucceſſors, may yearly, at ſuch times as they ſhall think moſt meet and convenient for the ſame, elect and chooſe four perſons of the ſaid commons and fellows, of the beſt learned, wiſeſt, and moſt diſcreet, ſuch as they ſhall think convenient, and have experience in the ſaid faculty of phyſick; and that the ſaid four perſons ſo elected and choſen, after a corporal oath to them miniſtered by the ſaid preſident or his deputy, ſhall and may, by virtue of this preſent act, have full authority and power, as often as they ſhall think meet and convenient, to enter into the houſe or houſes of all and every apothecary, now or at any time hereafter, uſing the myſtery or craft of apothecary within the ſaid

city, only to ſearch, view, and ſee ſuch apothecary wares, drugs, and ſtuffs, as the ſaid apothecaries, or any of them have, or at any time hereafter ſhall have, in their houſe or houſes; and all ſuch wares, drugs, and ſtuffs, as the aforeſaid four perſons ſhall then find defective, corrupted, and not meet nor convenient to be miniſtred in any medicines for the health of man's body, the ſame four perſons calling to them the wardens of the ſaid myſtery of apothecaries within the ſaid city for that time being, or one of them, ſhall cauſe to be brent, or otherwiſe deſtroy the ſame, as they ſhall think meet by their diſcretion," &c.

E.—*Page* 104.

An Act touching the Corporation of the Phyſicians in London. A. D. 1553. *Mar.* 1. *c.* 9. § 5.

" And further be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, for the better execution of the ſearch and view of poticary wares, drugs, and compoſitions, according to the tenor of a ſtatute made in the 32d year of the reign of the ſaid late King HENRY VIII. That it ſhall be lawful for the wardens of the grocers, or one of them, to go with the ſaid phyſicians in their view and ſearch; that if the ſaid warden or wardens do refuſe or delay his or their coming thereunto forthwith and immediately when the ſaid preſident, or four of his

his college elect as aforesaid, do call upon him or them, that then the said physicians may and shall execute that search and view, and the due punishment of the poticaries for any their evil and faulty stuff, without the assistance of any of the said wardens," &c.

F.—*Page* 105.

There is some kind of inconsistency in the language of these two statutes when compared together; unless we suppose that the apothecaries and grocers were incorporated into one company before the thirty-second year of HENRY VIII. contrary, I believe, to the common opinion, which does not allow of this conjunct incorporation till the fourth of JAMES I. The statute of 32d HENRY VIII. makes express mention of "the wardens of the mystery of *Apothecaries* within the said city of LONDON." Whereas in this very part which is copied and recited in the first of PHILIP and MARY, they are stiled "wardens of the company of *Grocers*."

G.—*Page* 109.

An Act for continuing the Duty on Low Wines, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Spices, &c. Ann. 3. *cap.* 4. § 1.

"Be it enacted, &c. That there shall be answered and paid, for and upon all drugs (dying drugs ex-

cepted) which are rated in the book of rates, and are or ſhall be imported as aforeſaid, a duty after the rate of ten pounds of like money, for every hundred pounds worth thereof, according to the ſeveral values charged on them reſpectively in the ſaid book of rates; and it is hereby declared, that by unrated drugs, chargeable by this act, are meant, all bark called clove bark, all bark called Jeſuit's bark, callabaſha, &c. all chymical preparations, phyſical oils, and medicinal drugs, excepting drugs uſed for dying, and except *coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa paſte,* and *cocoa nuts,*" &c.

To theſe were added ſome few other drugs five years afterwards, as objects of ſimilar taxation, as ſarſaparilla, balſam of Peru and Tolu, and whatever elſe of the like kind was "the growth and product of her majeſty's plantations in AMERICA." ANN. an. 7. cap. 8. § 12. By ſome unaccountable miſtake, ſenna was placed in the former act, in the liſt of drugs for dying; and an additional act was therefore paſſed on this ſubject eleven years afterwards, complaining of the error, and ſubjecting it to an equal tax with other foreign drugs. GEO. I. an. 1. cap. 43. § 3. Vide alſo GEO. I. an. 8. cap. 15. § 10.

A Bill

H.—*Page* 115.

A Bill that Perſons, being no common Surgeons, may miniſter Medicines notwithſtanding the Statute. Hen. VIII. 34-35.

" Whereas the company and fellowſhip of ſurgeons of LONDON, minding only their own lucres, and nothing the profit or eaſe of the diſeaſed or patient, have ſued, troubled, and vexed divers honeſt perſons, as well men as women, whom God hath endued with the knowledge of the nature, kind, and operation of certain herbs, roots, and waters, and the uſing and miniſtering of them to ſuch as been pained with cuſtomable diſeaſes, as women's breaſts being ſore, a pin and the web in the eye, uncomes of hands, burnings, ſcaldings, ſore mouths, the ſtone, ſtrangury, ſaucelim, and morphew, and ſuch other like diſeaſes; and yet the ſame perſons have not taken any thing for their pains or cunning, but have miniſtered the ſame to poor people only for neighbourhood and God's ſake, and of pity and charity. And it is now well known, that the ſurgeons admitted will do no cure to any perſon, but where they ſhall know to be rewarded with a greater ſum or reward than the cure extendeth unto, &c.

" Be it ordained, eſtabliſhed, and enacted, by the authority of this preſent parliament, that at all time from henceforth, it ſhall be lawful to every perſon, being the king's ſubject, having knowledge and experience of the nature of herbs, roots, and waters, or of the operation of the ſame, by ſpeculation or practice, within any part of the realm of ENGLAND, or within any other the king's dominions, to practiſe, uſe, and miniſter in and to any outward ſore uncome, wound, apoſtemations, outward ſwelling or diſeaſe, any herb or herbs, ointments, baths, pulteſs, and emplaſters, according to their cunning, experience, and knowledge in any of the diſeaſes, ſores and maladies aforeſaid, and all other like to the ſame, or drinks for the ſtone, ſtrangury, or agues, without ſuit, vexation, trouble, penalty, or loſs of their goods," &c.

I.—*Page* 134.

This, indeed, is not the only inſtance amidſt theſe feuds of the two communities, in which *the lower houſe* proved triumphant. It was in the beginning of the preſent century, when a part of the College in Warwick-lane was planned out for a Diſpenſary, Dr. GARTH, in his facetious and unrivalled poem, introduces the company of apothecaries as tauntingly exclaiming,

And

And dare the college of phyſicians aim
To equal our fraternity in fame?
Crabs eyes as well with PEARL for uſe may try,
Or HIGHGATE hill with lofty PINDUS vie.
So glow-worms may compare with TITAN's beams,
Or HARE-COURT pump with AGANIPPE's ſtreams.
DISPENSARY, Canto 2.

K.—*Page* 138.

An Act for exempting Apothecaries from certain Offices, &c. Ann. 6-7. *Will. III.*

"Whereas the act of the apothecary is of great and general uſe and benefit, by reaſon of their conſtant and neceſſary aſſiſtance to his Majeſty's ſubjects, which ſhould oblige them ſolely to attend the duties of their profeſſion, yet by reaſon that they are compelled to ſerve ſeveral Pariſh, Ward, and Leet Offices, in the places where they live, and are frequently ſummoned to ſerve in Juries and Inqueſts, which take up great part of their time, they cannot perform the truſts repoſed in them as they ought, nor *attend* the ſick with ſuch diligence as is required, Be it enacted," &c.

This act was to continue in force for ſeven years. In the firſt of Anne it was therefore renewed, and that for eleven years. In the tenth of the ſame reign it was again renewed for the ſame time; and made perpetual in the 9 Geo. I.

K.—*Page*

L.—*Page* 157.

There are few apothecaries in the country who do not engage in the practiſe of ſurgery: and by far the greater number in LONDON do the ſame: yet the united profit of both branches of the profeſſion forms, in too many inſtances, but a very ſcanty ſubſiſtence for the practitioner and his family. It was the opinion of the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, in a converſation I had with him a ſhort time before his death, that ſurgery ought ever to be practiſed by itſelf; as it appears to have been formerly among the GREEKS and ROMANS, unconnected with any other branch of the medical profeſſion. And Dr. KIRKLAND has profeſſedly written on the advantages which would neceſſarily reſult from ſuch a diviſion*: a diviſion, however, which a celebrated GERMAN Profeſſor, of the preſent century, lamented through the whole of his life, and ever regarded as an "infelix atque fatalis divortio†."

But without controverting at large the opinion of theſe gentlemen, and others who have imbibed the ſame ſentiments, I will only obſerve that, although the diviſion here contended for did frequently exiſt, with much accurate diſcrimination, among the GREEKS, the ROMANS, and the SA-

* Inquiry into the preſent ſtate of Medical Surgery. Introd.

† Andr. Goelicke Hiſt. Med. Univerſ. part 2. ſect. 157.

RACENS,

RACENS, yet the Hiſtory of Medicine given in the firſt ſection of this publication, will prove that it was a diviſion that admitted of many and continual exceptions alternately in every nation. That the phyſician very generally engaged in the practice of ſurgery, and often in that of pharmacy:—that the ſurgeon frequently exhibited internal medicines in diſeaſes which could not rank under his own claſſification: and that both the pharmaceutiſt and the ſurgeon occaſionally practiſed dietetic medicine. " For all the parts of medicine, obſerves CELSUS, are ſo interwoven with each other, that they cannot be eaſily ſeparated." " Le chirurgien et le medicin, ſays a FRENCH writer who juſtly acquired ſome celebrity for his obſervations about fifty years ſince, ſont à l'egard l'un de l'antre, comme l'architecte et le ſculpteur. L'architecte conduit un batiment, et prepare des niches pour des ſtatues. Le proprietaire appelle le ſculpteur, qui ſans contrainte et ſans direction, prete ſon induſtrie aux vûes de l'architecte, donne meme des conſeils ſur les places deſtinées aux figures. Les deux arts concourent au meme deſſeim*."

But there is another and a more forcible reaſon, which muſt for ever prevent any general ſeparation

* Memoire où l'on fait voir en quoi peut conſiſter la preeminence de la Medicine, &c.

in

in this country: and that is, that the practitioner who unites both surgery and pharmacy is, as before observed, seldom capable of obtaining more than a decent competency for himself and his family; and, at times, scarcely capable of effecting this. Either therefore these two branches must continue to be united throughout the whole country, as they have ever been in the army and navy, or the pecuniary profit allowed each of them must be nearly doubled. A fact there is but little probability of accomplishing at any time.

M.—*Page* 178.

Extract of a Letter, dated from Manchester, to the Committee of the General Pharmaceutic Association of Great Britain, marked No. 1, C.

" I have a copy by me of the different forms for the officinal preparations of a druggist of this town, whose shop is much frequented for the composition of prescribed medicines: and a comparison will easily determine, whether an honest apothecary could afford his at an equal price, even if he were immediately paid for them. The following are a few out of many of the like class; and the words of the recipes are here copied

Unguentum Lapide Caliminari
Lap. Calaminaris lbvij Axung Porcin lbxiv
Empl. Diachylon lbss.

Spir.

Spir. Lavendulæ comp.

Flor Lavend ℥vj Nue Moſch ℥ſs Cam Wood ℥iij
Sp. Vini ten. lbvj

Spir. Vini Camph

Sp. Vin Rect lbij Camph ℥j

Vin. Ipecac.

Rad. Ipecac. ℥iv Cort Aurant ℥ſs Raiſin Wine lbij

Syr. Papav. All.

Opium ℥iſs Aq. font. cong. iſs boil down to lbvij add Sacch. com. lbxij boil for half an hour

Liniment. Sapon.

℞ Sapon. Hiſpanic. ℥vj Sp. Vin. ten. cong j boil for an hour and a half, then add Camph. ℥j Ol Roriſman ℥ſs." Manchester, July 31, 1794.

N.—*Page* 185.

Extract of a Letter, &c. No. 9, C.

" If you think any farther facts neceſſary to be added to the many you have doubtleſs received, you may make uſe of the following recent ones, for the authenticity of which we will ſtand pledged.

" A gentleman of this city who does not practiſe pharmacy, preſcribed for his patient as follows, Decoct. Caſcarillæ ℥vij. Tinct. ejuſdem ℥j. This preſcription was ſent to a druggiſt's in this city to be made up. The ſhopman, who has the principal care of the buſineſs, having ſought for a bottle labelled Tinct. ejuſdem in vain—ſent to ſome

ſome neighbouring ſhops to enquire for it. And not ſucceeding, he, at laſt, took back the preſcription to know what he ſhould ſubſtitute in its ſtead, as he could not procure any Tinct. ejuſdem in the city. The next was, unfortunately of more ſerious conſequence. A phyſician being requeſted to preſcribe for the ſon of a poor woman, about ten years old, labouring under a dyſpnœa, directed the following draught to be given him at bed time:

℞. Syr. Papav. Alb. ʒj. Tinct. Opii Camph. ʒij. Aq. Diſtill. ʒvm.

this the poor woman, expecting to get ſomewhat cheaper, took to a druggiſt's. Unfortunately the ſhopman not being acquainted with the new name for Paragoric Elixir, made it with ʒij of Tinct. opii—and, though he adviſed the woman to give the child only half the draught, it proved ſufficiently ſtrong to deprive him of life before the evening of the following day."

Worceſter, March 18, 1795.

O.—*Page* 185.

It would be too voluminous by far to give even a compendium of the innumerable inſtances of errors and malpractiſe which, from a want of due regulations, have occurred to the notice of the committee within the city and ſuburbs of LONDON:—but having mentioned one miſtake of

ARSENIC

Arsenic for another drug in the country, I cannot avoid producing a second instance of a similar mistake in this city;—because an error of this magnitude, must be of the utmost consequence at all times, and because it may, perhaps, put some persons more on their guard, who are often liable to such errors, if this account should ever fall into their hands.

Mr. W——, member of the Committee, and a very respectable practitioner, produced before his colleagues, in the month of May last, a powder which a patient of his had purchased, a few days before, at a druggist's, as *ceruſſe*, to rub on the groins of her child, an infant only a few months old. On the first application of this powder, the groins, already excoriated in a small degree, became instantaneously most violently inflamed; and, ignorant of the cause of so unexpected an alteration, she sent the same evening to Mr. W—— for his advice. The inflammation had by this time extended over so large a portion of the abdomen, and the inguina had so sphacelated an appearance, that the greatest danger was justly apprehended. By a judicious treatment, however, this inflammation in a few days gradually diminished, and large sloughs being thrown off from t e wound in each inguen, the child's life was happily preserved

On

On examination, this powder, which was ſold for *ceruſſe*, proved inconteſtibly to be ARSENIC. And having myſelf attended ſome ſhort time after, at the requeſt of Mr. W. to inſpect the child, we were informed that the druggiſt, at whoſe ſhop this arſenic was purchaſed, had promiſed to defray every expence of the cure. It appeared from the report of his ſhopman, that this man had taken the ſhop about two years ſince, of another perſon, with the whole ſtock of fixtures and materials; and that this powder being then found in the drawer marked for ceruſſe, it had been ſold to the preſent time for this laſt article. The whole of the dreadful evils which muſt have ariſen from this very lamentable miſtake *for two years*, we could not diſcover: but it was an undoubted fact that, about the time I am now ſpeaking of, a gentleman in the neighbourhood had very nearly loſt a valuable horſe from the erroneous application of this powder, again purchaſed for ceruſſe, to a crack in one of its heels. And a friend of the lady who had nearly loſt her child in the manner above deſcribed, ſent unluckily about the ſame time, for ſome of the ſame powder, and for the ſame purpoſe; but leſs fortunate than herſelf ſhe was under the neceſſity of witneſſing the death of her child, in a ſhort time after, in conſequence hereof, and that in the extremeſt agonies.